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People's flowers join family tributes at Althorp island grave



Earl Spencer walking among the flowers that carpet a shrubbery near his sister's island grave. He and his staff spent hours unwrapping and moving the flowers from the gates at Althorp

Palace denies royal dispute

By ALAN HAMILTON, PHILIP WEBSTER AND DANIEL MCGRORY

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, Downing Street and Earl Spencer were united last night in angry denials of a report claiming a bitter dispute over the funeral arrangements for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Jon Snow had claimed on Channel 4 News that the Queen had stipulated that the Princess's body should not go to any of the royal palaces and that she should have a private, not a public funeral.

Her stance was said to have infuriated the Prince of Wales, who was reported to have sought the Prime Minister's help to overrule the Palace, resulting in the decision to allow the Princess's body to lie in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace and to hold the funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Snow also claimed that the Prince had a blazing row with Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary — and his former wife's brother-in-law, suggesting at one point that he "impale himself on his own flagstaff".

The report further depicted the Prince of Wales, Earl Spencer and the Prime Minister as being lined up against the Palace, and appeared to

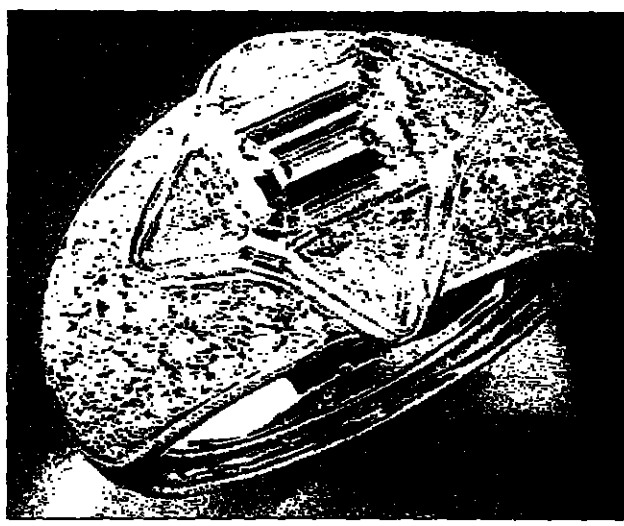
reinforce the view that the Palace totally failed to read the public mood after the death of the Princess.

Earl Spencer was said to have been enraged by the suggestion that his sister should have a private funeral, a reaction that was said to have coloured subsequent relations with the Royal Family.

And the Prince of Wales was reported to have called the Prime Minister from the flight deck of the aircraft taking him to Paris to collect the Princess to ask him to intercede over the arrangements. Tony Blair was known to have favoured a substantial state occasion from the start.

But the Palace last night dismissed the report in all its aspects. A spokesman said: "We can categorically say that this story is rubbish, and pure mischief-making. It is simply untrue. The funeral arrangements were made with the close co-operation of the Royal and Spencer families: there was no such dispute."

Lord Spencer matched the Palace with an equally vehement denial. "To suggest that there divisions between royal officials and me in the period



The £130,000 diamond ring presented over dinner

after my sister's death is so far from the truth as to be laughable. We were united in the aim of giving Diana a suitable funeral, and all arrangements up to and including the service were agreed amicably between the Lord Chamberlain's office and myself."

The Princess's brother added that arrangements for the funeral had gone very well. He dismissed as absolute rubbish another part of the television report suggesting disagreement over whether the Duke of Edinburgh should walk behind the coffin on the last stage of its journey to the abbey: "It is clear that the walk was going to be an ordeal for the boys, and that they would be more comfortable if their grandfather were there. They would feel reassured."

Downing Street joined the chorus of denial. A spokesman said: "It is factually wrong to say that the Prime Minister spoke to Prince Charles when the Prince was on the flight deck of his plane to Paris. No such conversation took place. It is also wholly wrong to say that Downing Street was involved in any inter-family

negotiations. That simply did not happen."

The Palace did, however, confirm that Lord Spencer had firmly rejected any suggestion that his sister should have her royal title posthumously restored.

Within two hours of the funeral, in which the Earl said of his sister "she needed no royal title to continue to generate her particular brand of magic", he made clear to Sir Robert Fellowes that even if a posthumous restoration were offered, the Spencer family would not accept it.

The exchange took place on the train carrying family mourners to the Princess's private burial at Althorp.

A Palace spokesman said that the Spencer family had been consulted: "Their very firm view was that the Princess herself would not have wished for any change to the

Princess chose ring given on fatal night

By BEN MACINTYRE AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A MONTE CARLO jeweller confirmed last night that Diana, Princess of Wales, had chosen the £130,000 diamond ring that Dodi Fayed presented to her on the night of their fatal car crash.

However, Alberto Repossi said he did not know if Mr Fayed intended it as an engagement ring as he never discussed such confidential matters with customers. "These are the sort of intimate things of which one does not speak," said M Repossi, who also has a boutique opposite the Ritz Hotel in Paris's Place Vendôme.

The emerald-cut stone surrounded by four triangle diamonds was selected by the Princess in Monte Carlo and sent to Mr Fayed for presentation to her over dinner a few hours before the crash.

"I am deeply moved by the fact that this ring will be forever associated with the tragic love story of the Princess," M Repossi said.

The ring, found in the wreckage of the Mercedes, was part of a line of engagement jewellery named *Dis-moi oui*. It recently featured in an advertising campaign in society magazines under the slogan: "A little yes, for the happiest day of her life." M M Repossi is a third-generation

gem dealer whose grandfather opened the family's first shop in Italy in 1920. Jean Germer, of Hatton Diamonds in London, said that the central diamond alone could be up to three carats and worth

£60,000. She said: "It is more than a cluster, we would classify it as possibly a reproduction of an antique ring. They have this kind of look. It is a very fine piece."

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Carey to defend unions' rights

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is expected to provoke political controversy today by publicly endorsing the Government's plans to grant statutory recognition to trade unions.

In the first speech by an Archbishop of Canterbury to a TUC conference, Dr George Carey will make clear that he backs the view of Roman Catholic bishops — that workers have rights, including the right to join trade unions and to go on strike, and are not commodities to be bought and sold according to market requirements.

He is expected to say that it is not consistent with ecumenical Christian concerns for workers to be denied a say in decisions concerning them, or denied a right to be represented by a trade union of their choice.

He will tell the conference: "I believe that, in broad terms, employers have a

moral responsibility to recognise the chosen representatives of their employees." And he will go on to say that it is unjust when people suffer victimisation on grounds of their membership or taking part in "legitimate" union activities.

The Archbishop, who will mention his own past membership of two unions, will also spell out "fundamental values" that Christian churches have in common with trade unions.

His insistence that employers have a moral obligation to recognise trade unions comes after TUC named a number of companies it accused of refusing recognition in spite of their workers wanting unions.

The Prime Minister will also support the plans for recognition when he addresses the conference in Brighton later today. But yesterday he was accused of watering down a clear promise on job rights made by his predecessor John Smith.

John Edmonds, General Secretary of

the GMB general union, criticised the Government for coupling its proposal for union recognition with an insistence on maintaining Britain's economic competitiveness and on keeping a flexible labour market.

Tony Blair is insistent that Labour proposals on jobs must be compatible with employment flexibility. But the GMB leader told the TUC conference: "A flexible labour market? When I hear the Labour government using Tory phrases, I shiver a little."

In a clear reference to the Prime Minister, he said: "People who tell us that flexibility must be encouraged at all costs should not defend a law that makes working people who change jobs wait for two long years to achieve even the most modest protection against unfairness at



Blair appeal

Tony Blair pressed for a double "yes" vote in the Scottish devolution referendum campaign, telling people in Glasgow and Edinburgh that there was nothing to fear except fear itself. He urged supporters: "Have courage and keep the faith" — Page 8

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Academy artists call for Myra Hindley show to be scrapped



Hindley portrayed by children's handprints

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Academy of Arts is facing a rebellion from its academicians over a decision to show a portrait of Myra Hindley, created by thousands of children's handprints.

The artist Craigie Aitchison has threatened to resign over the matter and others voiced disgust that the portrait of the Moors murderer is to be exhibited at a venerable institution such as the Royal Academy.

The issue will be debated at a general assembly of the academicians on Thursday. "It should never

have got this," Aitchison said. "It is a disgrace for the RA even to think of exhibiting the Hindley picture. I'm not going to be associated with a place that puts on that."

Referring to the RA's statement about being sympathetic to the wishes of the families of Hindley's victims, he said: "If this is true, why then is there any thought of exhibiting the picture?"

The exhibition organiser should be asked to give up his job. I have considered resigning over it. It's better those responsible for it should do that."

The portrait, by Marcus Harvey, is among several controversial ex-

hibits being loaned to the academy by the collector Charles Saatchi from September 18. *Sensation*, the title of the show of work by young British avant-garde artists, anticipates criticism. A sculpture using nine pints of an artist's blood and explicit mannequins are among works upsetting academicians who regard the academy as a bastion of tradition.

Winnie Johnson, the mother of one of the Moors victims, and Hindley herself have asked the RA not to show the picture.

Aitchison's views were echoed by fellow artist Anthony Green: "I wish that the academy had had nothing

to do with things that relate to Myra Hindley. It strikes me that we are not doing ourselves any great honour by being involved with Hindley mugshots when a child is still buried on the moors."

"This has nothing to do with art. This is bathing in the gutter. Others will say we're narrow-minded, bigoted old fools. I don't mind if they do. This is about common humanity and Christian decency."

Another academician, Philip Sutton, said: "I don't think it should be exhibited because of the families of the children. The question of artistic freedom doesn't come into it. It's to do with human feelings about the

family. I don't feel it's a political clamping down on an artist. It's to do with human feelings. If the family object, I'm with the family. If it was one of my children, I would strongly object."

Norman Adams, Professor of Painting at the RA School, said: "It's a pretty disgusting exhibition because of its reliance on shock tactics. Apart from anything else, it's such an awful painting. I can't see what merit it has at all."

Edna Weiss, a member of the Reynolds Club, an association of former students of the Royal Academy Schools, said: "For the parents of the children, it's in bad taste. The

murder is not 100 years hence. This is too close to it. Hindley is still living and the parents are still around."

David Norris, chairman of the Reynolds Club, said: "As a matter of principle, if something is going to be so intrusive into the emotional life of the families, of course it shouldn't be there. It's capitalising on artistry or in any other way. This is courting the emotions to gain publicity."

An RA spokeswoman said that a final decision would be made at the end of this week.

Hume puts peace process before Irish presidency

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
AND AUDREY MAGEE

JOHN HUME ended weeks of speculation last night by announcing that he would not stand in the election to succeed Mary Robinson as Ireland's next President.

The 60-year-old leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party ended weeks of speculation last night by saying that he had spent his adult life working to end the conflict in Northern Ireland and could not leave the peace process at this "very crucial stage".

Polls showed that Mr Hume was the overwhelming favourite. He was inundated with calls from the Republic urging him to stand, and Dublin's main parties would have backed him. However, the post would have prevented him joining the full-scale peace negotiations, beginning on Monday, which he has worked harder than anyone to broker.

Mr Hume, who is also an MEP, said it was a "very difficult decision". Other factors undoubtedly deterred him, though his statement did not mention them. He had no guarantee of an uncontested election because Albert Reynolds, the former Taoiseach, would not withdraw. Sinn Féin had an outside chance of winning the by-election for his Westminster seat, giving it



Hume: inundated with calls to stand

three MPs to the SDLP's two. Unionist hardliners might have turned the European election into a damaging referendum on the peace talks.

Sinn Féin will meanwhile fulfil the last condition for joining the negotiations this afternoon by formally committing itself to the six "Mitchell principles" of democracy and non-violence. In a brief ceremony at Stormont Castle Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, and Martin McGuinness, the party's chief negotiator, will renounce the use of force for political ends. None of the Unionist parties will be present.

The Ulster Unionist Party's 110-member executive will meet on Saturday to decide

whether to attend the negotiations with Sinn Féin. The party is deeply divided on the issue and is expected to agree only to proximity talks, not face-to-face negotiations. The smaller Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties have already left the peace process.

Mr Hume's decision not to stand for the Irish presidency throws the Republic's political parties into turmoil as they struggle to find a successor to Mrs Robinson, who leaves office on Friday to become the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner.

The three main Irish political parties — Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Labour — had hoped to avoid an expensive and potentially politically damaging presidential election by putting Mr Hume forward as an agreed candidate. All three parties want to avoid the embarrassment of losing an election, but the elimination of Mr Hume forces them to select candidates over the coming weeks and canvass for the election on October 30.

Mr Reynolds is now the bookmakers' favourite to win. However, the Fianna Fáil leadership is reluctant to back him as it fears that he will not have enough electoral support, particularly in Dublin, where anti-Reynolds sentiments are strong. Michael O'Kennedy, a former Fianna Fáil minister, is currently the



Mary Robinson yesterday, during her last official visit to Belfast as Irish President

party's only alternative but is not considered strong enough to beat Mr Reynolds at next week's selection meeting.

Fine Gael, meanwhile, must decide between Mary Banotti, an MEP who spends most of her life in Brussels and Strasbourg, and Avril Doyle, who lost her Dail seat in the June

election. Labour, which backed Mrs Robinson in 1990, does not have any candidates as yet. David Norris, an independent senator and gay rights activist, is seeking the party's nomination, but it is reluctant to back a gay man for President and may opt for Michael D. Higgins, the for-

mer Arts Minister. Dana, the former Eurovision Song Contest winner, is still battling for a nomination.

Mrs Robinson paid a final visit to Northern Ireland yesterday and insisted that peace was "within grasp" if the Province's politicians were willing to take risks.

Palace denies royal dispute

Continued from page 1
spent several hours helping to move some of the many thousands of flowers from the front gates at Althorp to the island where his sister is buried.

The task began at first light after he decided that the flowers should be allowed to wither over time near the Princess's unmarked grave.

The tiny bouquet of white roses from Prince Harry that sat on the coffin with the poignant card saying "Mummy" has been placed alone on the grave. It, too, will be left untouched, as will the bouquets from Prince William, a spray of lilies from Lord Spencer and the tributes from the Prince of Wales and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

A spokesman for the Spencer family said: "There is no intention of removing any of them after the flowers had withered. It's ashes to ashes. They will stay there and help more flowers to grow one day after the grave."

All day, estate workers toiled to lift by hand each floral tribute that had been formed into the shape of a heart on the road outside the gates. Inside they were laid on tractor trailers and taken to the edge of the lake where the

Earl helped to lift them into a small rowing boat.

David Jones of the Press Association, the only photographer allowed to witness the scene, said: "It really was very peaceful. Extremely moving. The island is carpeted in flowers."

The Earl was rowed out to the grave because he has ordered the temporary bridge used for his burial to be dismantled so that nobody can reach the island.

"He wanted his sister left in absolute peace and solitude. This way, no one can reach her grave," the spokesman said. When family members want to visit, they, too, will go by boat. When the Earl opens Althorp to the public, they will be permitted to walk only as far as the lake edge.

The photographer was not allowed near the Princess's grave, but simply shown a pathway that has been hacked through the shrubbery. By last night that pathway was entirely strewn with flowers.

The Earl, who was said to have remained "composed and reflective" as he walked on the island, has left a note on the gates to the estate thanking people for their generous reaction and explaining what has happened to their tributes.

Carey will defend unions' rights

Continued from page 1
work." Changes to employment law made by the Conservative Government extended the qualifying period for employment protection to employees with two years' service or more.

Mr Edmonds said that politicians reluctant to change the two-year rule had claimed that to do so it would discourage job creation. He said: "They give us a choice between unemployment and unfairness. Thank God life is not like that."

He explicitly recalled Mr Smith's 1993 promise of universal rights at work from day one for all employees.

politician who got the issue right rather than someone who made a "spurious show", Mr Edmonds said: "Not a waiting period which gives the bad employer an interlude to pressurise and bully. Protection from the first minute of the first day of the first week of employment."

And rejecting any compromise of making unfair dismissal rights applicable after a year or six months — as had been suggested during the election campaign, he added: "To dismiss people unfairly is just as wrong whether it happens after two days, or two months, or after two years."

Praising Mr Smith as a

TUC reports, page 26

NEWS IN BRIEF

Law lords will sit in Hong Kong court

British judges are to play a key role in the Court of Appeal in Hong Kong. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said yesterday that two serving law lords will be made available to sit in the court, which has taken over from the Privy Council as the former colony's final appeal court.

The announcement, which will be widely welcomed by the legal profession in Hong Kong, was made after a meeting between the Lord Chancellor and the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Andrew Li. The two law lords will form part of the Court of Appeal's non-permanent panel of judges and will strengthen the perceived independence of the court. The appointments will be made through the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Further talks will be held on the candidates. Lord Irvine is visiting Hong Kong, the first Cabinet minister to do so since its transfer to China.

Lawyers' profits soar

Lawyers in the City of London have enjoyed their biggest earnings since the 1980s, with average profits per partner topping £500,000, according to a survey by *Legal Business* magazine. The biggest profits were at Clifford Chance, Linklaters & Paines, Freshfields, Allen & Overy and Slaughter and May, where turnover topped £1 billion. At Slaughter and May, average profits were £566,000, with top partners earning £700,000. Partners at some of the middle-sized firms took home as much as those in the top five.

Donor boy helps seven

An eight-year-old boy who died from a brain haemorrhage has helped seven people by the donation of his organs. Aaron Bennett's mother, Angela, 37, of Wilsden, near Bradford, said: "We wanted to give someone else the chance from our loss." A three-year-old girl in King's College Hospital, London, received a liver, one kidney was given to a ten-year-old Nottingham girl and the other to a 54-year-old Sheffield woman. Two children will have his heart valves to restore their sight and two will have his heart valves.

Nuclear fire contract

The Atomic Energy Authority will disclose details this week of the contract to dismantle the damaged atomic reactor at Windscale, which has remained sealed since it caught fire 40 years ago. The firm at Windscale Atomic Works — now Sellafield — in October 1957 remains the worst nuclear accident in Britain. Fifteen tonnes of nuclear fuel are still in the structure. Andrew Munn, spokesman for the authority, said: "You cannot leave something like that forever and a day. This is a contract to do something about it."

ME charity's tutor fear

Only a quarter of tutors who teach sick children in their homes know anything about chronic fatigue syndrome, the condition which is responsible for more than half of long-term illness among teenagers, says Action for ME, the charity for sufferers from myalgic encephalomyelitis. It found that only 25 per cent of home tutors employed by 70 local education authorities had been told how the condition, which affects 25,000 children, hits memory and concentration. The charity has launched an information pack.

Beatles publicist dies

Derek Taylor, the former publicist for The Beatles who was responsible for many of the legends surrounding their career, has died. Mr Taylor, 65, worked with the group at the height of Beatlemania and ghostwrote the autobiography of their manager Brian Epstein, *A Cellarful of Noise*. He later became press officer for the ill-fated Apple record label. A private funeral will be held in Suffolk on Friday.



Health inequality grows

The gap between the life expectancy of the wealthy and the poor is widening, according to a study. Men in the professional classes can expect to live to 75, compared with 70 for those at the bottom of society. Professional-class women have a life expectancy of 80, compared with 77 for the poor. The report, *Health Inequalities*, also shows that richer people are healthier. It will be used by Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, in drawing up a study for the Government on the consequences of poverty.

Alzheimer's drug hope

Gene-testing for Alzheimer's disease could make the memory-loss illness preventable and curable within five years, according to leading a neurologist. Allen Roses, the vice-president of Glaxo Wellcome and a former professor of neurology at Duke University Medical Center, North Carolina, told a conference in Australia that he believed within five years a new set of drugs would be under test which could prevent the disease occurring in people identified as being at risk.

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Ofsted pulls plug on Uncle Brian

Inspectors criticise school over 'sexist' science game and for sport during break-time, reports David Charter

VILLAGE youngsters were happy when their primary school used a children's entertainer to teach them about electricity in a fun way. Uncle Brian lined up a group of four boys and a group of four girls, then they held hands to complete a circuit so that a weak current could light a bulb.

Weeks later, the school found that the lesson had been condemned by a school inspector. The problem was not the teaching method but "practices which reinforce gender divisions". The boys and girls, said an official report, should have been in mixed-sex groups.

That was not all. Brompton and Sawdon Primary School, near Scarborough in North Yorkshire, which has been praised by the local secondary head teacher for high standards in English and mathematics, was also criticised for running competitive team sports at break-time and for failing to give children in an all-white community an "appreciation of the multicultural nature of Britain".

Yesterday the inspection agency Ofsted was handling an official complaint from the school about "political correctness" after a meeting of angry parents heard that the school had failed its inspection.

Governors accepted criticisms that lessons for five to seven-year-olds were poorly planned, but fiercely chal-

lenged other conclusions. The lead inspector, Kath Wallace, said the 39-pupil school for children aged 5 to 11 was not making boys and girls work in mixed groups. "Apart from the very youngest children, pupils are only prepared to work in single-sex groups and this is not challenged by teachers."

The school's emphasis on playing team games at break-times was criticised for having a "negative influence on the social development of pupils and is overdependent upon the head teacher to organise it". Elsewhere, the school is praised for its "high standards" in sport.

Mark Evans, the chairman of governors, said he was upset by the approach used by the inspectors, especially over Uncle Brian. "I think this was the result of an unlucky misunderstanding illustrating the old saying 'No good deed ever goes unpunished'."

The entertainer — real name David Reid-Frow — is the son of a school governor. Mr Evans said: "He offered to do some simple experiments with the children to illustrate electricity. Four boys and four girls stood in a line with wire and had to connect it to a battery and make a light come on. Because it was not two boys and two girls in each team, we were criticised. Uncle Brian is a member of the community who has tried to be supportive and helpful, and



David Reid-Frow's work as Uncle Brian was criticised for "reinforcing gender division" through dividing a group into boys and girls

he came in with the best of intentions. I am sure the children enjoyed it greatly. Boys and girls mix perfectly naturally here, they play together at break and treat each other well."

The school was also condemned for not encouraging the pupils to explore their

cultural heritage or to have "an appreciation of the multicultural nature of Britain". Mr Evans said: "I recognise the inspector has a job to do and she found fault with some of the teaching. That is fair. But this implies, because we are basically an all-white part of the country, that no one is

interested in anything else other than the history of North Yorkshire, which is not the case. We teach the national curriculum in full."

Brenda Frow, mother of the entertainer, said: "There are only 11 children in the infant class. My son chose the children he felt would be helpful to

him, those who wanted to be involved. It is just the way it happened."

A spokesman for Ofsted said: "We cannot comment on the detail of the report. We have no doubt that the essential judgment that the school is failing is correct, but we acknowledge the school has

registered a complaint, which will be investigated."

He said the findings criticised as "politically correct" would not, on their own, have led to the school failing. "They are not fundamental. What is important is the quality of teaching and learning, and the progress pupils are making."

Bernard heads for the final furlong

JEFFREY BERNARD, whose third favourite occupation after drink and sex was gambling on horses, is to have his ashes buried at the Gallops, the training ground at Lambourn, Berkshire.

The decision has been taken by the two brothers of the 65-year-old Soho habitué and *Spectator* columnist, who died on Thursday. It has yet to be agreed by Lambourn officials.

Oliver Bernard, 71, who was the eldest brother, said: "He lived near there, he loved the place — it's very beautiful — and he had some very good friends there among the trainers and jockeys. There's no room to bury him in Soho."

"It's just a question of getting hold of a trainer who was a particular mate of Jeffrey's and ensuring he arranges it." He said that his brother, who wrote for *The Sporting Life* before being sacked for an indiscretion at a race meeting, was not particularly successful at backing horses.

Last year the writer netted £800 after backing the Grand National winner Lord Gyllene at 14-1. But his gambling proved costly in 1986 when he was fined £200 for running an illicit book at the Coach and Horses, the Soho pub that he frequented.

The burial of the urn is planned for Friday after a service at West London Crematorium in Kensal Green. There will be no officiating priest. "He had no interest in organised religion," said his brother.

Woman stabbed on common 'knew her killer'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A TEENAGER stabbed to death on a common probably knew her killer, police said yesterday.

Rachel Barraclough, 18, described as a shy, churchgoing young woman, died from wounds inflicted with a 3in knife. Her body was discovered on Sunday night, 24 hours after she left home for a night out with friends in Wakefield, west Yorkshire. Three men out for a walk found her body on Heath Common on the outskirts of the city.

Police were yesterday unclear about the motive for the killing. She was fully clothed and had not been sexually assaulted, but had no money on her.

Detective Superintendent John Holt, leading the murder hunt, described her death as an "exceptionally violent murder" and said the person responsible was capable of doing it again and must be considered extremely dangerous.

He said: "I believe she was comfortable in the company of the person responsible for this horrific attack. Although she went willingly to Heath Common, we do know that she put up a struggle. She has received a number of defence wounds to her hands. There is a possibility that her attacker might have received some sort of injury, either from Rachel trying to defend herself, or he may have been injured during the course of the attack."

Miss Barraclough, from Bradford, was last seen by the taxi driver who dropped her



Rachel Barraclough: regular churchgoer

off at Bradford Interchange railway station on Friday night to catch a bus to Wakefield. When her body was found she was wearing her disco clothes: a short, black satin skirt, a burgundy blouse and a black bomber jacket with an imitation fur collar.

Mr Holt said he believed Rachel had not been abducted and dumped but died at the scene, 40 yards from the nearest path and a mile from the nearest road. The common is popular with joggers and people walking their dogs. The murder weapon has not been found.

He described the victim as a normal, attractive 18-year-old girl, "full of life", who was a regular member of her local church. He appealed for anyone who saw her to come forward so they could piece together her final hours.

Yesterday her father, Malcolm Barraclough, a maintenance engineer, and her mother Hilary, were too distressed to appear at a press conference.

Years of guilt led murderer to confess

By ADAM FRESCO

SEVEN years ago, Andrew Aiken took a 4lb hammer and battered to death a friend after a drunken argument. Yesterday a court was told that he had wandered the globe, "tormented by guilt", until he could stand it no more and flew home to Britain, where he confessed to police and begged for the death penalty.

Aiken, who represented himself in court, killed Lawrence McDonagh, aged in his 40s or 50s, at their squat in Hackney, East London, in 1990. He dragged the body into the cellar and buried it in a sleeping bag. Friends, unaware that the body was underfoot, helped him to concrete over the floor.

Shortly after the murder of the busker he had met at a London Tube station, Aiken left the country, the Old Bailey was told. He ended up in Picton, south of Sydney, Australia, and joined a group called the Community Apostolic Church and told them his story. They persuaded him to give himself up and in June this year he returned to Britain. He was met at Heathrow in June by a member of the church from Kent who helped him to type his confession.

Brian Altman, for the prosecution, said: "He asked for his life to be taken in an exception to what he described as the current insufficient punishment."

On June 5 this year Aiken went to Scotland Yard and led officers to the body. Judge Clive Taylor, QC, adjourned sentencing until Friday for psychiatric reports.

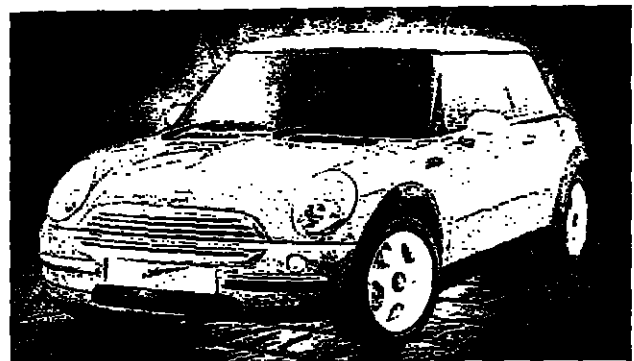
Brief encounter with new Mini shows minor change

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Mini for the next century broke cover last night — and it looks like a Mini. Rover was allowed to show the successor to Britain's best-selling car, but only for a few seconds, by the company's owners, BMW.

The fleeting glimpse was enough to allay fears that the new Mini would be a radically styled, bug-eyed car. The next Mini will look very like the 10ft box on wheels designed 40 years ago by Sir Alec Issigonis. Rover's designers have cleverly incorporated modern styling cues into the familiar Mini shape, dictated by the fact that the car will not follow the fashion among competitors for moving the engine further back.

The engine will stay under the bonnet, where Sir Alec originally put it, placed sideways and powering the front



Rover's new Mini has strong links with the original

wheels. But the car will be slightly longer than the original, roomier and safer. It will also be "unashamedly sporty", according to Rover.

The Mini for the millennium was revealed on the eve of the Frankfurt Motor Show, which traditionally celebrates German technology. BMW held a confidential meeting for selected journalists to

show its future products, but surprised the audience by making the Mini the star. After its brief appearance the car was shipped to Rover.

The Mini will be Rover's most important car for the next century, replacing the current model and the Metro (now badged 100) and with potential sales at more than 100,000 a year.

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The operation to collect tributes has been postponed as thousands more are laid, reports **Daniel McGrory**

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Schools to fund places for bright girls



Lawley: will publicise £70m scholarship fund

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

The largest grouping of independent girls' schools yesterday launched a £70 million scholarship programme to replace their state-funded assisted places, which are being phased out by the Government.

Sue Lawley, the broadcaster, will take part in radio advertisements to publicise the 3,000 subsidised places available to low-income families at the 25 schools in the Girls Public Day School Trust.

Ms Lawley, whose daughter attends Putney High School in South

London, is among several celebrities helping the trust to set up its fund. Its patrons include Dame Stella Rimington, former director of MI5 and a former pupil of Nottingham High School, and Nicola Horlick, the merchant banker who attended Birkenhead High School.

The assisted places scheme, which covers 34,000 pupils, is to be phased out over the next seven years and the £140 million cost switched to keep class sizes to 30 or below in state infant school classes. This September's intake will be the last subsidised by the scheme.

As disclosed in *The Times* in May, the trust wants to ensure that the

fund can replace all the assisted places at its schools. They include South Hampstead High and Wimbledon High in London, and Ipswich, Oxford and Portsmouth High Schools. The trust has raised well over £10 million through donations from funds and former pupils.

Michael Oakley, its chief executive, said: "We could fill these places with fee-payers but the trust has always been committed to making its schools accessible to bright girls from families who otherwise could not afford it. We do not want schools which are only for the relatively wealthy."

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of 250 leading

independent schools estimates its schools will replace around a third of its subsidised places.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the conference, said: "The sad thing is that, despite all the schemes, there will be children who will lose out. It is undeniable from the research we have done that those young people will do less well in the schools they are going to than if they had come to us."

Government-commissioned research showed last summer that pupils on assisted places at independent schools scored up to three A-level grades better than pupils of equal ability at state schools. The

study compared the 1995 A-level results of pupils on the scheme with those of 18-year-olds who qualified for a place but opted to take their A levels in the state sector.

□ The Girls Public Day School Trust, which this year celebrates its 125th anniversary, is to drop the word public from its title.

Mr Oakley said: "We do not want an exclusive image. The trust was founded to offer educational opportunities to all bright girls, whatever their backgrounds. The word public was used in 1872, as the schools were funded by public subscription, but it has since come to suggest exclusivity."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body of son lost on fishing trip found

The body of a man missing since a Bank Holiday fishing trip has been washed up on a Merseyside beach.

Charles Brodie, 22, of Rosendale, Lancashire, and his father John were plunged into the Irish Sea when their boat capsized off the North Wales coast last month. The 43-year-old father spent more than 20 hours in the water, using air-filled waders to help him to float before an RAF helicopter located him. The son's body was discovered near Southport yesterday.

Killer escapes

Raymond Jones, 38, serving life for killing his aunt, absconded from Leyhill open prison, Gloucestershire, three days after transferring from another jail. Three other killers have escaped from Leyhill in the past year.

Railway injury

A schoolboy is in hospital after suffering 30 degree burns from a 750-volt railway track near his home in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. The nine-year-old is said by Booth Hall Children's Hospital in Manchester to be "poorly".

Rugby boy dies

A boy aged ten collapsed and died during a warm-up session before a weekend mini-rugby match. Scott Donkin, from Newcastle upon Tyne, had not been in physical contact with any other players, witnesses said.

Blenheim hunt

A team from Bristol Diving Club believes it has located a Bristol Blenheim bomber in the Atlantic off Ulster and hopes to salvage it. Only one of the Second World War planes, a rebuilt version, had been thought to exist.

Torn off a strip

Two Cleveland policemen have been reprimanded after being filmed licking chocolate from a stripper while on a training course. They are the first of 22 officers to be disciplined over the incident, during a course in Lancashire.

Mother is hero for tomorrow's career women

CHERIE BOOTH, the Prime Minister's wife, is the top public role model for sixth-formers at some of Britain's leading girls' schools. But most feel that they know an even more impressive woman: their mother.

The girls have revealed themselves to be a mix of the traditional and modern in a poll examining their views as the next generation of career women. Most said that they would not work full-time while their own children were young, but some said they had already decided never to have children.

The poll of girls at schools belonging to the Girls Public Day School Trust named Ms Booth, a leading employment lawyer, as the most popular personality for successfully combining motherhood with a career. Diana, Princess of Wales, was second — the poll was taken before her death — and Baroness Thatcher was third.

Other nominations included the businesswoman Nicola Horlick, Hillary Clinton, the actress Nicole Kidman, Dawn French, Pamela Anderson and Goldie Hawn, followed by the television presenter Anne Diamond, and Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary.

Ms Booth attracted 46 votes from the 340 girls who were

Cherie Booth tops sixth-form poll, but home's where heart is, reports John O'Leary

questioned. However, home is still where the heart is. Twice as many girls voted for their mothers than for any of the public figures nominated.

Most of the girls in the survey had doubts about the concept of a "superwoman". Three out of ten said it was impossible to combine motherhood with a good career, although more thought that it was normal to do so.

The poll was taken for a conference of head girls and their deputies being held this week. Anne Jolly, the organiser, said: "A lot of girls said they could not compare a public figure with those they knew intimately."

"Things can look wonderful on the surface, but there can be dreadful strains underneath. Their mothers were seen close at hand and commanded respect."

Only 13 per cent of the sixth-formers said that they would work full-time before their

children went to school. Almost half favoured part-time work, while 38 per cent did not expect to work before their children were five years old.

Only 3 per cent expected to have children before the age of 26, while 22 per cent intended to wait until they were at least 31. One in 20 had already decided not to have children.

The conference, at Wimbledon High School, in south-west London, will focus on decision-making, simulating conditions young women may meet in the workplace. The 80 delegates will play the role of health authority members faced with the need to make substantial budget cuts.

The scenario is particularly apt because more than half the girls expressed an interest in a career involving the National Health Service. A hospital doctor was the favourite choice, followed by a general practitioner and a physiotherapist.

The 25 schools in the trust, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary, include many of those at the head of the examination league tables. Oxford and Ipswich high schools appeared in the top 20 of *The Times* A-level ranking, while South Hampstead High School, in north London, was eighth in the GCSE table.



Women who impressed the sixth-form girls: clockwise from top left, Cherie Booth, Hillary Clinton, Nicola Horlick and Baroness Thatcher. But the girls felt that their own mothers were still the real superwomen

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Children 'are the experts on drugs'

PARENTS were urged yesterday to find out more about drugs and their effects. The call by Tessa Jowell, Public Health Minister, came as research showed that a third of parents think their children know more about drugs than they do.

At the launch of National Drugs Awareness Week, Ms Jowell encouraged parents to pick up a copy of a new free guide called *Drugs and Solvents* — Know

the Facts. She said: "As a parent, I know how difficult and worrying it can be to talk to our kids about drugs. One of the most important tools is information."

The booklet, published by the Health Education Authority and Boots the Chemist, is available from Boots stores until September 14. A survey commissioned by the chain shows that almost three quarters of parents agree they are

responsible for telling their children about the dangers of drugs.

However, more than a third believe that their children know more about illegal drugs than they do and 38 per cent feel helpless about protecting their children from them. Nearly 90 per cent are worried about their children using Ecstasy. The survey questioned parents of children aged from seven to 21.

How trying to keep cool can be a headache



MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE ice-cream so gratefully licked on a hot day will, within 20 seconds, induce a severe but short-lived headache in some unlucky people. This type of headache is equally brought on by sucking ice cubes, having an ice-cold drink or by being splashed in the face while swimming in a cold sea.

A correspondence in the *British Medical Journal* about "ice-cream headache", stimulated by an earlier editorial, revolved around the origins of the reflex which causes constriction in major arteries of the brain.

The reflex changes, which can reduce flow by a third, could be the result of an overreaction to a reflex responding to a drop in blood temperature affecting a nerve centre in the neck, or a response to a reflex triggered by a sensation of cold in the mouth, or above all the patient's palate.

Fortunately, the *BMJ* correspondence has coincided with Migraine Awareness Week. Although the nature of ice-cream headache and migraine is very different, both are the result of changes in cranial circulation. Dr Clifford Rose, chairman of the Migraine Trust and the founder director of the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic at the Charing Cross Hospital, London, said that

two new 5HT₁ receptor agonist drugs have been introduced to treat migraine attacks over the past year, another two were just about to be launched, and Imigran (sumatriptan), which had set the gold standard of anti-migraine therapy, was now available in a form which could be sniffed, acting four times faster than a tablet.

Imigran, and the new drugs Naramig (naratriptan), are made by Glaxo Wellcome and have been joined on the chemist's shelves by Zolmig (zolmitriptan). All are 5HT₁ agonists and both Naramig and Zolmig are effective in smaller doses than Imigran.

If migraine occurs more than twice a month, or if the visual disturbances, photophobia, throbbing headaches, nausea, vomiting and shivering which characterise migraine are not eased by modern drugs, patients should take prophylactic treatment, often a beta-blocker tablet daily.

Whether the changes in a headache sufferer's brain circulation are the result of migraine or ice-cream, medical research has resolved their mechanism and this has resulted in better methods of avoidance or treatment.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Whales gather for feast at the men-only diner

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Reports by Nigel Hawkes and Nick Nuttall

BELOGA whales travel thousands of miles to meet at a "men-only restaurant" beneath the Arctic pack-ice, scientists have discovered. They feast on rich stocks of cod and halibut after navigating by the stars or the Earth's magnetic field.

The discovery has overturned accepted knowledge of whales. Dr Tony Martin, of the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrews University, said yesterday: "The Eskimos who hunt belugas saw our findings and said they were rubbish at first."

Until now it was believed that the beluga, a white-

coloured whale, with males up to five metres long, never strayed from the shore and estuaries of the high Arctic. But Dr Martin said their findings showed they could dive to great depths, going on journeys of thousands of miles.

The belugas also appear to

have a detection system that can locate air holes in the pack-ice, allowing them to make their incredible journeys. The findings, disclosed at the annual meeting in Leeds of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, have been made possible by satellite tracking.

The British and Canadian scientists tagged the belugas in the Mackenzie Delta, on the Canadian side of Alaska. The whales then spend a few weeks moulting in estuaries in late June and July before heading to the feeding grounds.

The moulting period in shallow waters is when the whales are at the mercy of hunters. Dr Martin showed a picture of 20,000 skulls of beluga whales killed by British whalers in the last century. One big whaler from Dundee simply put a net up across a bay and shot the animals.

The females and the males split by Banks Island. The big males travel up via McClure Strait to the "restaurant", a deep trench at a site called Viscount Melville Sound. The females go to a more shallow feeding ground, the scientists have found, taking young males and females with them.

The researchers believe the different sites reflect their abilities. The males appear able to stay down for up to 21 minutes whereas the smaller females can only stay down for up to 16 minutes.

Dr Martin, whose work is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, said this allowed the males to make the hazardous journey to the 550-metre trench, where cod is available "in unbelievable quantities". The "restaurant" is open for August, after which the males head westwards under the ice, eventually emerging through the Bering Strait.

Toothed whales, such as beluga, have echo location systems like bats, but the researchers suspect that they dive and listen for a "sound signature" of water moving around air holes in the ice.

Official estimates are that there are 18 races of belugas in the Arctic, totalling between 40,000 and 80,000 animals. But Dr Martin said: "I now suspect that the population may be much larger, in excess of 200,000."

Beckett calls for quality, not profit

SCIENCE should be as concerned with the quality of life as it is with profitability, Margaret Beckett, the Cabinet minister responsible for science, told the association.

Mrs Beckett, making the first statement on the Government's science policy, gave no promises of increased funding or radical policy departures. Her only concrete initiative was an annual prize, worth £100,000, to be awarded to the academic department, centre or unit that had made the most significant contribution towards sustaining a "healthy economy" — defined as sustainable development and a better quality of life.

She criticised industry which, she said, was not paying enough attention to research and development, or putting sufficient resources into it, and for the fate of many researchers forced to work on short-term contracts. "Only those companies and countries that have high levels of investment in skills and technologies, complemented by high levels of management interest and attention, will succeed," she said.

She was also critical of the slow progress made in trying to improve the career pattern of young researchers. "Many of these highly talented and committed young people have a vast amount to offer but for



Beckett: criticised lack of research by industry

a tangle of reasons this potential has not blossomed as it should," she said. A renewed effort should be made to ensure better career patterns for contract researchers, not only in universities but also in institutes and laboratories.

Britain had a strong science base of which we should all be proud, she said, but as a society we often lacked scientific knowledge. "But what is worse and what lies behind that lack of knowledge is a widespread failure of imagination and understanding about the relevance, the value, and the sheer excitement of scientific endeavour in all its many forms," she said. The challenge was to improve public understanding of science, and to inspire young people to be interested in it.

Yorkshire tittle-tattle 'inspired Jane Eyre'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICTORIAN love affair involving a teacher called Jane Eyre could have been the inspiration for the suppressed passion between Charlotte Brontë's fictional character and Mr Rochester in her classic novel.

Claims by Margaret Connor, an amateur historian, to have discovered the liaison are being taken seriously by the Brontë Society, which has published details of her work in its journal.

Miss Connor says the actual romance between Frances Jane Eyre and an eminent surgeon living not far from the Brontës' home at Haworth parsonage in west Yorkshire would have been hot gossip for the local chattering classes in the mid-1840s. *Jane Eyre* was published in 1847.

Miss Connor, a retired teacher, has spent two years researching how the tale found its way to the Brontë household through a grapevine of weekly prayer meetings, embroidery circles and dances.

The love life of Frances Jane Eyre, a member of the Moravian church in Fulneck, Leeds, bears a similarity to that of the literary heroine. In the novel the governess's love for the father of her pupil remains unfulfilled until almost the



Charlotte Brontë would have heard local gossip

end because of his dark secret: an insane wife kept locked in a remote wing of Thornfield Hall.

The Jane Eyre of Fulneck had her hopes of marrying a Pudsey surgeon named Machill thwarted at first because she apparently refused to sacrifice her career as a teacher in a church school. At that time such teachers were required to remain spinsters.

She first appears in church records in 1842, when as a woman in her twenties, she seeks membership. The following year she joined the Moravian Single Sister group and an entry in the elders' journal records that "Single Sister Fanny Jane Eyre has formed a connection with a Mr Machill, a surgeon of Pudsey".

but, as the relationship was "not in a state of forwardness", the elders did not object. She last appears in 1845 seeking a post in the church school.

Miss Connor first stumbled across the name in 1995 while looking into her family history in Fulneck's Moravian Church records. She dismissed it as coincidental until a year later she met an academic visiting Fulneck who said one of his forebears, Mary Liley, knew the Fulneck Jane Eyre and also Ellen Nussey, one of Charlotte Brontë's closest friends.

Liley's journal mentions: "Jane Eyre ... afterwards married to the late Dr Machell of Pudsey", which Miss Connor took to mean that the real Jane Eyre's "connection" had finally gone forward, although whether she had to change jobs or leave the sisterhood to wed is unknown.

Miss Connor believes it was likely the news of Fulneck Jane Eyre's tribulations in love filtered through local gossip circles. She found Mary Liley's cousin, Elizabeth Cockill, was an old friend of Charlotte Brontë.

Yesterday she said: "It seems that Mary Liley's journal provides a very probable link between the Fulneck Jane Eyre and Charlotte Brontë." The Brontë Society is to study the research.

Upland farms go downhill

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE upland farms of England and Wales are facing a bleak future as the next generation deserts them, the National Farmers Union warned yesterday.

A survey conducted by the union found that 43 per cent of hill farmers with children said their sons and daughters had decided not to take over the farm. Three quarters blamed low incomes.

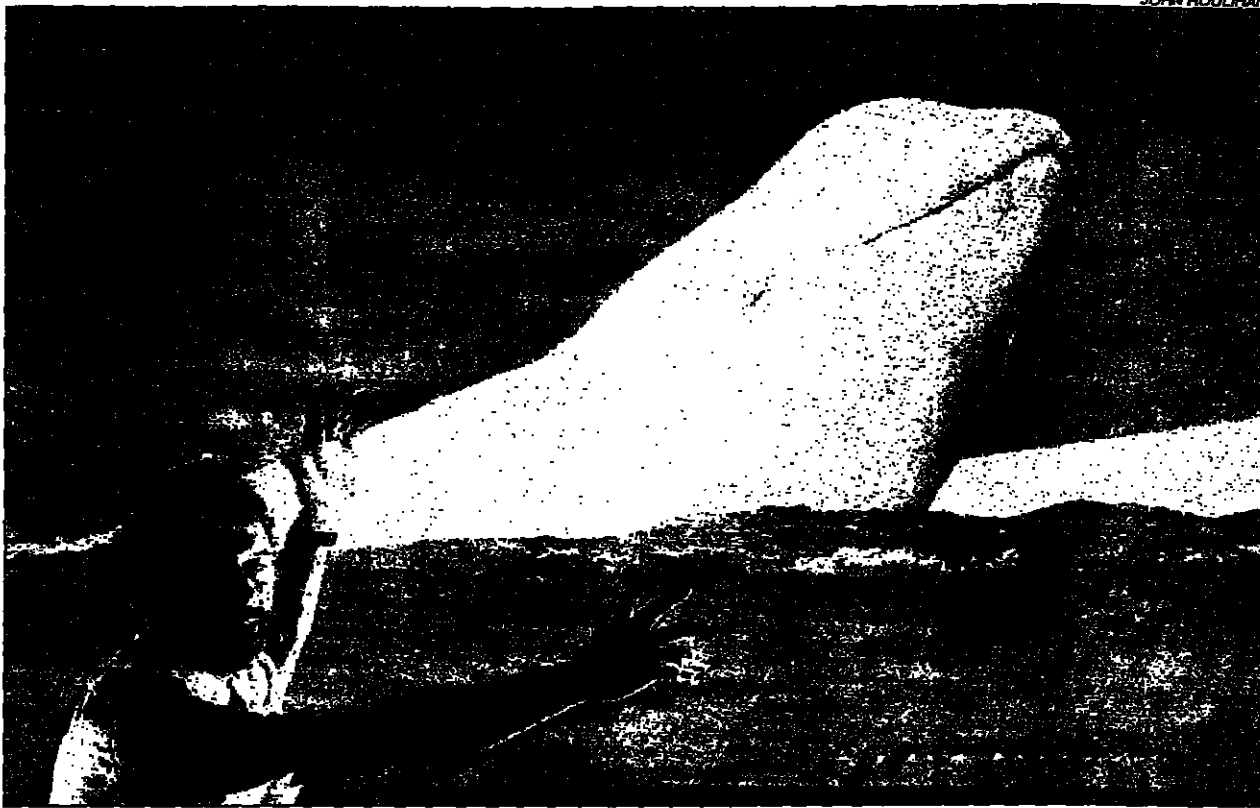
The exodus places the long-term future of traditional fam-

ily farms in England and Wales in jeopardy and poses a threat to rural life. The worst-affected areas are parts of England designated as Less Favoured Areas, such as North Yorkshire, Cumbria, the Pennines, Bodmin Moor, Exmoor and Dartmoor and the bulk of Wales.

Sir David Naisbitt, the president of the union, said: "The survey results are particularly worrying as the hills and uplands have been farmed by the same families over the generations. With no natural

successor, the upland communities face a bleak and bitter future. Our upland landscape could also suffer from skills such as drystone walling not being passed down the generations."

The union aims to persuade the Government that hill farming is facing a mounting crisis. Sir David and Tim Bennett, Less Favoured Areas Committee chairman, are to present ministers with a formal review emphasising the crucial role of upland areas to the agricultural economy.



Tony Martin with a projection of a beluga whale. His findings were originally dismissed by Eskimos

When buses went down wrong road

ONE-MAN buses illustrate the folly of narrow-minded decision-making, according to the president of the association.

Sir Derek Roberts, Provost of University College London, said: "Somebody looked at the cost of the bus service and said, 'We could halve the wage bill if we didn't have conductors.' So they did it and made a very marginal saving. But had they looked at the economy as a whole, they would have seen that it made no sense."

"We are paying a vast amount to offset that saving. Apart from the impact on the quality of the service, the buses sit there emitting pollution and holding up a queue of traffic which does the same."

Women are reluctant to travel on buses late at night because of the fear of threatening behaviour, and so on."

Had the decision been made in a more rational way, society would have been the richer, said Sir Derek, who was making a plea for the "systems approach" used by engineers to be applied more widely.

A second example was a drug made by the Japanese company Esai that could slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease. It was expensive but brought improved quality of life to patients, enabled carers to go back to full-time work, spared the state the cost of social security payments and meant that the newly employed carers paid tax.

Monsters of the deep thrive in ice

MONSTROUS creatures, including giant sea spiders and worms, have been discovered on the Antarctic seabed.

Dr Lloyd Peck, of the British Antarctic Survey, said yesterday that the low temperatures led to very low metabolic rates among marine creatures, allowing them to grow to bigger sizes and to live longer than comparable creatures in warmer waters.

Isopods — creatures rather like wood lice — reach lengths of 17cm against 3cm in temperate seas. Sea spiders up to 33cm from leg tip to leg tip have been discovered. They are a thousand times bigger than European sea spiders.

Dr Peck said that other

oddities included a 10ft tall sponge, big enough for divers to climb inside, and nemertean or ribbon worms that can grow to three metres and are as "thick as your thumb".

The seabed world has emerged from studies of icebergs. When a big one grounds on the seabed it can obliterate marine communities. Smaller ones swirling around in the sea also kill off seabed life.

Dr Peck said that the survey had found that the diversity of Antarctic marine life forms rivalled the Tropics. That was partly due to the clearing out by icebergs and partly to the isolation of the continent from the rest of the world for some 35 million years.

Public is turned off by green confusion

THE public is confused and increasingly cynical about claims made by environmental experts.

Although most people would like to lead a greener life, they are not sure how to do it and doubtful that it would make any difference. The messages from government, the media and environmental groups are too complex, too confusing and change too often for them to know how best to respond.

Jacqueline Burgess, of the Department of Geography at University College London, who has carried out a study in Britain and The Netherlands, found that the Dutch were greener than the British and more likely to trust what they were told.

The research, carried out from 1993 to 1995 in Nottingham and Eindhoven, found anxieties about the environment had been displaced by worries about crime and unemployment.

As one Nottingham woman put it: "You have enough pressures in your own life — with your own problems — without taking on the world's all of the time." Dr Burgess says that the Nottingham groups conveyed "a sense of overwhelming resignation".

Dutch households in a six-month programme organised by an international charity ended up using 16 per cent less electricity, 10 per cent less water, driving 18 per cent fewer miles and generating 27 per cent less household waste. A similar programme will go ahead in Britain in the next year.

□ Evidence linking tiny particles of metals in vehicle exhausts to increased heart attacks in heavy pollution was "beginning to look very solid", a government air adviser said.

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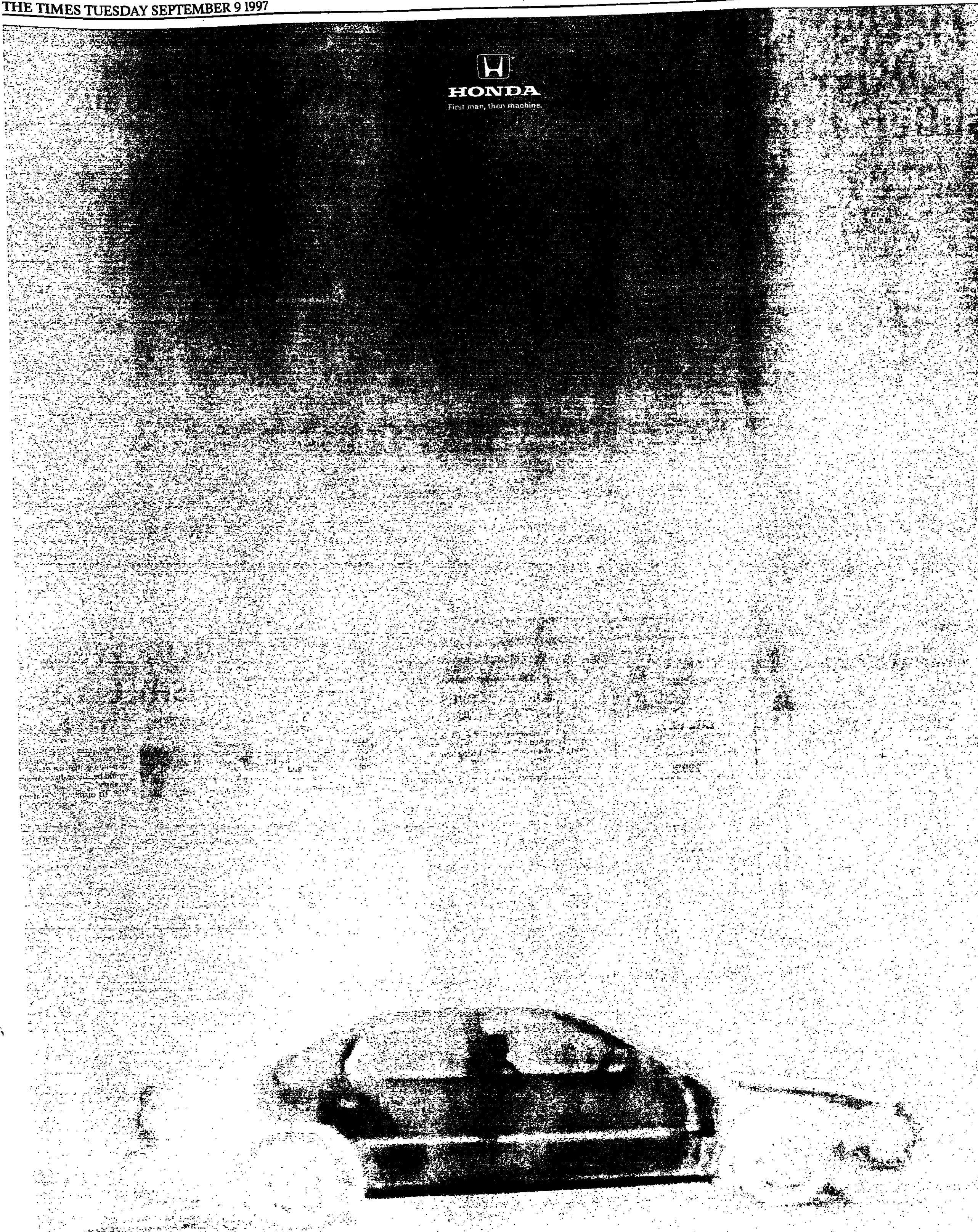
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Fresh setback for Mir as computer suffers third crash

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S troubled Mir space station suffered a fresh setback yesterday when its computer crashed, forcing the crew to shut down all but the life support systems.

In the most serious mishap since a fresh crew arrived last month and began vital repairs to the spacecraft, mission control in Moscow reported that the ageing computer had been "playing up again".

Although Russian space officials insisted that the incident, the third of its kind in three months, was routine and that the crew was not at any risk, the problem is considered serious and could take days to repair.

Mir's computer was unplugged by mistake in July and then crashed last month after a faulty part malfunctioned during a docking procedure. On all three occasions, the crew was forced to shut down non-essential systems in order to conserve power.

throwing the orbiter off course. The systems that were closed down yesterday included the Elektron oxygen-generating system and the gyroscopes, the devices used to position Mir's solar panels towards the Sun.

Although on the past two occasions the spacecraft was sent spinning out of control and lost its orientation, this time the Russians claimed that Mir was relatively stable and that its solar panels were still generating power.

"The systems are all in order and as soon as the computer is repaired they can go back into operation immediately," said Vladimir Solovyov, the mission control director.

He added that the failure had been caused by a defect in one of the computer's units and by one of the programmes, which the crew would replace. "The computer contains 10,000 units, so one is

bound to go wrong sooner or later," he said.

Despite his relaxed attitude, the incident does raise some troubling questions for Mir, which the Russians want to keep operational until 1999, but which faces a difficult future if the computer crashes with such regularity.

Nasa seems determined to continue its partnership with the Russian space programme. A spokeswoman for the American agency said yesterday that, despite the latest setback, David Wolf is scheduled to replace Michael Foale, the British-born Nasa astronaut, on Mir at the end of this month, when the Atlantis shuttle is due to dock with the Russian orbiter.

After his recent spacewalk to carry out repairs, Mr Foale telephoned his parents in Britain to tell them about the experience. The ten-minute link to Cambridge was made through a radio ham in Texas.



The Lost City of Machu Picchu in the Andes. Concern is high after a brush fire spread up the steep mountainsides on Sunday

Troops halt huge blaze on fringes of Incas' Lost City

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PERUVIAN officials are urgently trying to assess the extent of damage to Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, after a huge brush fire spread up the steep mountainsides of the ancient complex of temples and palaces.

The fire was put out successfully but there are fears that it could reignite in the dry and windy conditions in the Andes. More than 350 members of the army and police fought the flames that spread across lush vegetation towards the 8,855ft high peak on which the citadel is perched.

Homero Nurena, Peru's civil defence chief, said: "We are now assessing the damage caused to the ancient ruins. The fire came within metres of the Inca city and there has to be an archaeological investigation to see what was destroyed." He added: "We remain on alert as there are still fears that the fire could restart."

The severe drought conditions are being blamed for the fire which is believed to have started naturally. The blaze engulfed 99 acres of low shrubs on Sunday before it was extinguished yesterday morning.

The flames were put out using water from the two rivers, the Urubamba and

Anbamba, which flow through lush valleys 2,300ft below Machu Picchu. "It was lucky that we had a water supply to douse the flames," Señor Nurena said. "Other Inca ruins are in remote and high-altitude Andean areas where water is sparse."

The Lost City of Machu Picchu, one of Latin America's most famous tourist attractions, was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by the United Nations. It receives about 1,000 visitors a day during the dry season which begins in June and ends in December.

The ruins were discovered under thick jungle vegetation by Hiram Bingham, an American archaeologist, on July 24, 1911. Between 1912 and 1915 he brought in a team to clear the overgrown vegetation and discovered a maze of complex structures that continues to provide an invaluable source of knowledge about the Incas' advanced engineering skills.

Archaeologists say the exceptionally high quality of stonework and the abundance of ornamental, rather than practical, structures suggest that the citadel was an important ceremonial site for the warrior tribe. Although it stands on such high ground, it is very difficult to see from the surrounding valleys.

Caribbean states hit by banana trade feud

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union is struggling to find a way of shoring up the economies of the Windward Islands and other Caribbean banana-growing states after the World Trade Organisation upheld American complaints that Europe gave them unfair access to its market.

The decision by a WTO appeal panel, to be confirmed this month, has brought to a climax the US-EU feud over a protected banana trade that is the lifeblood of former British colonies such as St Lucia, St Vincent, Dominica and Grenada.

The United States Government, under pressure from big American-owned export companies, challenged the EU "banana regime", which grants special import quotas and tariffs to fruit from certain nations in the Caribbean and Africa, mostly former British and French colonies.

The small states, which depend on banana exports for up to 70 per cent of their income, say they cannot compete with the low-cost Latin American product mainly exported by American companies. The Caribbean accounts for 15 per cent of the EU banana market, and the industry brings in more than £200 million a year to the region. Eastern Caribbean leaders have told President Clinton that their economies face collapse if their European market is cut off, which could endanger democracy and increase the drug trade.

12 die as train hits tanker in France

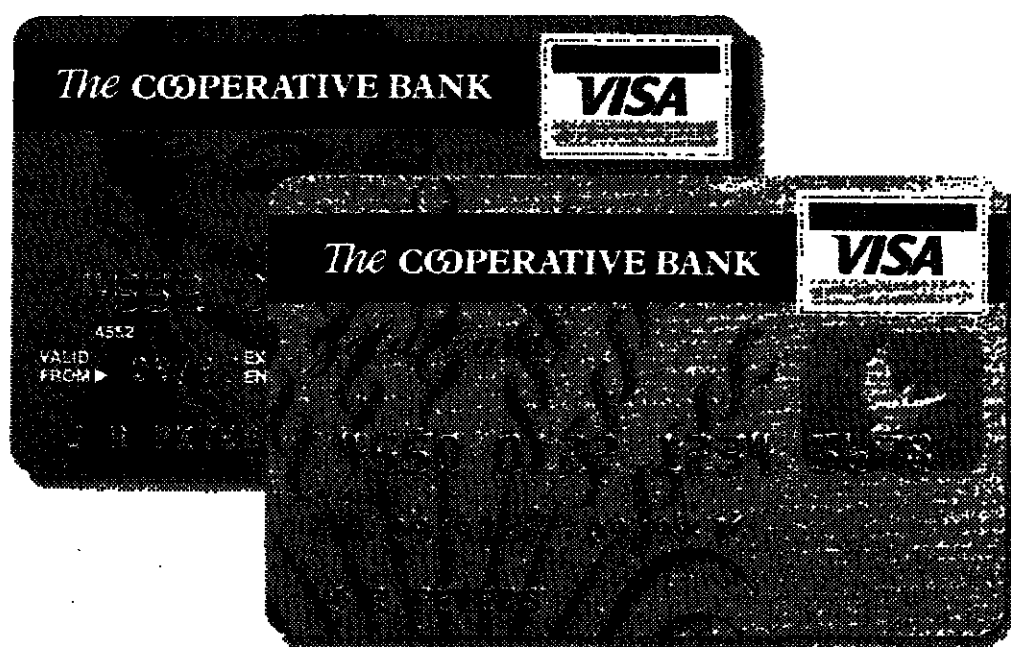
FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AT LEAST 12 people were killed and more than 30 injured yesterday when a passenger train hurtled into a petrol tanker on a railway crossing in southwest France. The express train, travelling from Bordeaux to Bergerac in the Dordogne, struck the tanker, carrying 30,000 litres of fuel, just before noon near the village of Saint-Antoine-de-Breuilh. The vehicle burst into flames and the train's engine and first carriage were destroyed by fire, which spread rapidly to nearby buildings.

Ten fire engines and 160 firefighters fought the blaze as 23 ambulances and two helicopters ferried victims to hospitals at Bordeaux and Limoges. Police said the tanker had bypassed barriers to cross on to the track. The train driver was killed instantly. The tanker driver was critically injured. Officials said some bodies were so badly burnt that immediate identification was impossible. Four people were in a serious condition last night.

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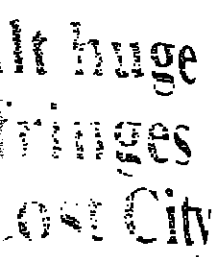
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Republicans home in on Gore as claims of Chinese plot misfire

PRESSURE is mounting on Vice-President Al Gore to testify before the Senate committee investigating campaign finance. Two prominent Republicans on the committee are calling this week for Mr Gore to provide more evidence about his attendance at a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple.

But the new focus on Mr Gore is a powerful sign of what Republicans admit in private: the three-month Senate investigation is falling far short of their hopes. Fred Thompson, the committee's Republican chairman, has failed to sustain his opening declaration that he knew of a Chinese plot to influence the White House. This weekend, as members of Congress

A former actor turned senator has not been able to produce evidence backing his allegations that the White House solicited illegal campaign funds, **Bronwen Maddox** writes from Washington

tussled over the autumn agenda, it became clear that campaign finance reform will not be achieved this year.

Arlen Specter and Don Nickles, both Republican senators on the committee, have called on Mr Gore this week to "speak out" on whether he knew the 1996 gathering at the temple was a Democratic fundraising event. Republicans

have seized on disclosures that Mr Gore had a greater part in fundraising than he previously admitted as their best chance of damaging his bid for the White House in 2000. But in the process the governmental affairs committee has wheeled away from its original, more controversial target — proving that the Democratic National Committee or the White

House knowingly solicited illegal foreign contributions, particularly from China.

When the hearings began in July Mr Thompson, a former actor, used all his Hollywood instincts to steal the show by claiming that the committee had "uncovered a significant amount of documentary and other relevant information" about a "plan hatched during the last election cycle by the Chinese Government and designed to pour illegal money into American political campaigns".

On August 1, after three weeks of hearings, Mr Thompson was forced to concede, according to reports, that "we do not know to

what extent" China tried to influence the elections, and that there had been "some confusion in terms of what was said and what was intended" by his claim.

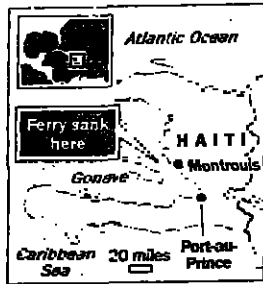
Mr Thompson's mistakes in chairing the committee are spelt out this week in a ferocious, detailed attack by the *New Republic*, a left-leaning but Clinton-bashing political weekly.

Under the heading "Thompson blew it", the magazine accuses Mr Thompson of blundering badly in his choice of witnesses. Rather than turning to experts on China, he relied on Thomas Hampson, head of a small private investigative firm in Illinois, to paint a portrait of Lippo Group, a conglomerate registered in Indonesia, as essentially Chinese in its activities and management. That was a task Mr Hampson largely fluffed.

Despite his Hollywood credentials, Mr Thompson has been blamed for failing to inject drama into the televised hearings. He "had been billed as a slow-speaking, somewhat bumbling country lawyer on the surface, but underneath a savvy and determined advocate", the *New Republic* argues. In reality, despite "moments of acuity... his line of thought often appeared obscure".

Nor, it appears this week, is the committee's second stated aim of campaign finance reform likely to be achieved. The issue was strikingly absent from a list of 44 themes drawn up by Republican leaders in the House of Representatives to be tackled this autumn. The Bill put forward by John McCain, a Republican senator, and Russell Feingold, a Democrat, now appears a non-starter, senators say in private.

□ Little Rock: The two main lawyers for Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against President Clinton asked a court to let them withdraw from the case, citing "fundamental differences" with her. They said that they could no longer represent Mrs Jones, who filed a \$700,000 (£435,000) lawsuit against Mr Clinton three years ago. (AP)



Fears of 400 dead in Haiti ferry sinking

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

UP TO 400 people were feared drowned yesterday after an overloaded ferry sank off Haiti.

Local radio stations reported that about 60 people managed to reach the shore, but the majority of passengers on the *Fierle Gonaivie*, a 60ft wooden sailing vessel, were missing. Within a few hours of the ship sinking, at least 25 bodies had been washed ashore.

US Coast Guard vessels, which patrol the Windward Passage between Haiti and Cuba, were sent to search for survivors.

"The Haitian Coast Guard has three boats on the scene and they are reporting about 300 to 400 dead," Petty Officer Scott Carr said at US Coast Guard headquarters in Miami. "We are not sure if it capsized or sank."

The US Coast Guard sent a helicopter to help the search. Two more helicopters from a United Nations peace mission in Haiti were also assisting.

The ferry sank at dawn between the small port of Montrovis, about 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince, the capital, and the island of Gonaive, which lies a few miles off the coast.

Local ferries, which carry food to Gonaive and charcoal to the mainland, are often overloaded. Despite numerous tragedies in the past, Haitian ferry traffic is almost wholly unregulated.

The *Fierle Gonaivie* had an estimated capacity of about 300 passengers, but witnesses said she left port with up to 800.

In February 1993, more than 1,000 people died when the ferry *Neptune*, sank on a regular trip between the capital and the port of Jérémie. At the time, the Haitian junta failed to respond to a political outcry which fuelled hatred of the military regime.

Last year Haiti's new civilian government created the country's first Coast Guard, which has been undergoing training under American supervision. But it has only three or four 25ft vessels and remains incapable of dealing with a disaster of this magnitude.

Mother Teresa to be buried in house of prayer

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CALCUTTA

MOTHER TERESA is to be buried in a room at Mother House, headquarters of her Missionaries of Charity order, one of two Christian centres in the city where prayers are held non-stop. It was her wish to be interred where there was constant prayer. The city authorities have declared the building a heritage site.

There were queues a mile long yesterday to see her body lying in state in a glass casket in St Thomas's Church, beneath a huge stained-glass window. Nuns from the Missionaries of Charity, wearing their familiar blue-and-white saris, sang hymns and chanted prayers in Bengali, Hindi and English.

Children in school uniform, children from her orphanages and thousands of poor people stood in monsoon rain for a chance to file past the body. It is not customary for Christians in India to display the dead, but the Missionaries of Charity decided this should be an exception in response to popular clamour for a last look at the "Saint of the Slums".

The lawns outside the church were festooned with flowers, some of which women arranged into a giant message: We Love You. The chanting of prayers and displays of religious devotion gave the scenes inside the church the aura of a Hindu temple. For many, it was their first time inside a church. Mother Teresa thought she

would be buried at another church in Calcutta called St Michael's — there are five bearing the same name — because of its constant prayers. But the order's general council decided it would be more fitting to keep her at Mother House, a modest building down a narrow alley off a busy main road.

The first door on the right of the alley leads into what will become a shrine to Mother Teresa, 87, who died of a heart attack on Friday night. The private chapel used by the nuns will be moved downstairs to be closer to the remains of the Albanian-born nun, who founded the order 50 years ago. It does charity work in more than 100 countries.

The building is now effectively a monument to one of the most remarkable women of the 20th century, whose work earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. The Vatican announced that the Pope would send a special representative for Saturday's funeral Mass. A host of other foreign dignitaries will attend.

Mother Teresa's presence at Mother House was always low-key: she wore nothing but cheap cotton saris, which were sometimes so old they had tears in them. She was often barefoot, but otherwise wore sandals bought in the local market. She ran her order with almost military discipline and strictly imposed codes of poverty and obedience. Flags on government buildings in



An altar boy and a nun keep vigil inside the church where Mother Teresa's body is lying in state

Calcutta are flying at half mast. The military, officials from the Missionaries of Charity and senior government bureaucrats are working out arrangements for Saturday's ceremonies, designed to express spectacularly India's feelings for a Christian who

ouched the nation more than any other foreign-born person.

Her body will be handed over to the control of the military on Thursday, in accordance with custom for a state funeral. On Saturday morning, it will be taken on a gun carriage, draped in the

national flag, from the church for Mass at the city's Netaji indoor stadium, which can hold 12,000 people. The subsequent interment will be attended only by members of the order because there is so little space, although huge crowds are likely to gather near by.

Yesterday St Thomas's was overwhelmed by the desire of people to see her body. Roads around the church were sealed to traffic and it was decided to leave it open 13 hours a day.

Beyond the image, page 14
Letters, page 19

Martial arts saved Israeli girl from suicide bomber

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS THE Israeli death toll from last week's triple suicide bombing in Jerusalem rose to five, a Jewish girl told yesterday how lessons in martial arts had saved her life after one of the three guerrillas grabbed her by the hand.

"The [Islamic] terrorist gave me a scary look and grabbed my hand tight," said Mital Perry, 17. "When he grabbed me, I instinctively used a release method I learned in a taekwon do class, and stuck my elbow in his stomach. I managed to run two or three paces and then heard an enormous explosion and flew

backwards." Miss Perry, who was lightly wounded in the pelvic area, told the Hebrew daily *Yedioth Aharonot*.

The Israeli student said: "I came up from the Zion Square side and about midway noticed three men who looked suspicious. I kept walking towards them and then they split up. The terrorist quickly came over to me. I thought, 'I am about to die.' The taekwon do saved my life."

The fifth Israeli victim to die as a result of the attack was named as Eliyahu Markovitch, 40. Hospital officials said that his 11-year-old son was still seriously ill.

□ Hebrew: Israeli soldiers bound and severely beat a

Palestinian in this West Bank town yesterday and then fired teargas when passers-by attempted to intervene. The Israeli Army said that Ashraf al-Hdoush, 20, had attacked an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint, but a witness said: "IS soldiers took him out of the car, bound him and beat him until blood started gushing out of his mouth and ears."

Aisheh Midyeh, an elderly woman, said she got a knife from her house and returned to try to free Mr al-Hdoush's hands as he lay bleeding on the ground. She said: "The soldiers took the knife from me and accused Hdoush of acquiring a weapon and arrested him." (*Reuters*)

New York judge asks shrink to rule in dog-eat-dog dispute

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A JUDGE has ordered a dog to undergo a "full psychological examination" to determine why it bit off a woman's thumb as she struggled to rescue her pet puppy from its jaws.

The incident occurred two years ago when Grace Shen, now 62, was walking Casper, her minuscule West Highland terrier, outside her home in the Bronx. They taken a few leisurely steps when a large chow, three times the size of Casper, bounded up and sank its jaws into the dog's neck.

Mrs Shen tried to prise open the chow's jaws. The larger

dog, Chester, let him go, but not before biting off her right thumb. It was later, a nurse, claims that she can no longer perform intricate tasks requiring the use of her thumb.

Mrs Shen sued the dog's owner, Oleg Kornchenko, a security guard at the Russian Mission to the United Nations, for \$10 million (£6.2 million), for trauma suffered by her and her dog, and for the loss of feeling in her thumb.

Yesterday Judge Barry Salzman of the State Supreme Court ordered Mr Kornchenko to take Chester "forthwith" to an animal behaviourist to determine whether the dog has a "vicious propensi-

ty". Mr Kornchenko's lawyers had argued that the puppy should be also be examined, but the judge ruled that there was "enough prima facie evidence to conclude that Casper was a mild-mannered dog."

□ Pet crate: eads. Nine months after the film *101 Dalmatians* hit America's screens, prompting a craze for the breed, hundreds of Dalmatians are being handed in to animal shelters across the country. One shelter in New York said that many people, seduced by the dogs' cuddly screen image, had been unprepared for the breed's energetic manner, hortheadedness and general recalcitrance.

WORLD SUMMARY

War-time stress 'led to killing'

Los Angeles: A former prisoner-of-war went on trial yesterday for the murder of his British son-in-law, claiming to have "snapped" because of traumatic wartime memories (Giles Whittell writes).

Lawyers for Richard Keach, 77, are to argue that when he shot dead Nicholas Candy, 47, last year he was in the grip of post-traumatic stress disorder caused by beatings in Japanese prison camps.

Mr Candy, from south London, was in the midst of a bitter child custody battle with Mr Keach's daughter when he visited the Keach home to pick up his two-year-old son and was shot after an argument.

North Sea air crash

Oslo: An 18-seat French-built Super Puma AS332 helicopter crashed into the North Sea off Norway with the feared loss of the ten passengers and two crew on board. Wreckage and an empty liferaft were found, but there were no immediate reports of survivors. The aircraft had been on its way from Brønnøysund, about 450 miles north of Oslo, to an oil production ship 150 miles offshore in the Nornes field. (AP)

Mayor guilty of race hatred

Paris: Catherine Mègret, the far-right National Front Mayor of Vitrolles in southern France, was given a three-month suspended prison sentence yesterday for promoting racial hatred (Ben Macintyre writes). She was fined Fr50,000 (£5,000) but the court stopped short of the demand that she be declared ineligible for public office. She had said immigrants were only in France "to take money".

Officials deny Abacha is ill

Lagos: Officials in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, denied a report in *Tell*, an opposition magazine, claiming that General Sani Abacha, 53, the country's military ruler, is "very sick" with cirrhosis of the liver. "We deny that this story is correct. I do not know where they got their information from," one official at the presidency said. (AFP)

Cyprus court fines soldiers

Nicosia: Three Royal Signals Regiment soldiers were fined £200 each by a Cyprus court for indecent behaviour and causing malicious damage while off-duty from training the Army said. They were caught naked at a public pool in the Ayia Napa resort on Sunday morning. (*Reuters*)

Stallone swaps narcissism for introspection

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FORGET *Rambo* and *Rocky*: Sylvester Stallone yesterday announced a new, softer and more cerebral persona for his next run of films.

"The cult of the body is narcissistic and self-defeating," Stallone said in Rome, where he was laying the foundation stone of a new Planet Hollywood theme restaurant. He said his next project was a film set in the world of Formula One racing. "But it will be a psychological study. I'm not even sure I'm going to star in it myself."

Yesterday, Stallone, who is of Italian-American origin, used his visit to Rome to announce that he had signed a deal with Bernie Ecclestone, the owner of Formula One, allowing him to make a film set in the high-octane world of motor racing. "It's an idea I've had for

some time," he said. "This deal has taken two years to put together."

Would he play a racing champion himself? "No, I am not sure I am going to be in it at all, and if I am, I'll probably play someone behind the scenes." His idea was to follow "the lives, characters and lifestyles" of four racing drivers: one based on Michael Schumacher, one on Damon Hill, and one on Giancarlo Fisichella, the Italian Formula One driver who raced at Monza at the weekend and was with Stallone yesterday.

"The fourth driver will be someone who buys his way into the sport. I'm not going to name names. I don't want to get anyone angry." His aim was to make a psychological study. "This is not a gimmick. It will not be a one-man movie."

One of his entourage confided that Stallone might make another *Rambo* movie, but it would present a different style of hero, "more introspective, more thoughtful, with character development." This was a bit much for Italian reporters who resorted to asking him what his favourite food was. "Ice cream," he responded.

But Stallone, who looked slim and fit despite his weight increase for *Copland*, insisted he had "lost his muscles". He posed with one of the historic cinema artefacts to be displayed at the Rome Planet Hollywood: the camera used by Marcello Mastroianni in *La Dolce Vita*, valued at \$250,000 (£155,000).

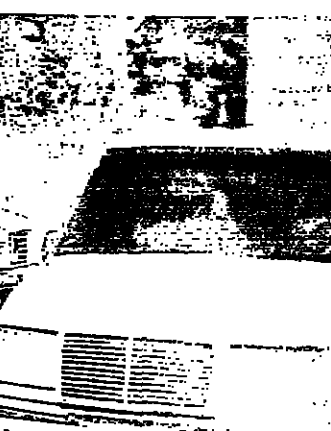
He then emerged to an ecstatic welcome from the crowd outside who chanted "Rocky, Rocky", apparently oblivious to his change of image. "It's great to be an Italian," Stallone told them, in English, before heading for the airport and Miami.



Sylvester Stallone meets driver Michael Schumacher at Monza at the weekend

THE TIMES
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LIFE 08

Mobutu legacy of corruption stifles Congo

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

MOBUTU SESE SEKO, who reduced Zaire to poverty and chaos during 32 years in power, died on Sunday in exile in Morocco after a long battle with prostate cancer.

His relatives said he would be buried in Morocco but that the arrangement was provisional, suggesting that his final resting place could still be his homeland. Mobutu's legacy of a corrupt style of government — that led to the coining of the word "kleptocracy" — will take far longer to erase in Zaire, renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo after his removal.

Laurent Kabila, who marched across 2,000 miles of jungle to drive Mobutu out of office with the help of troops from Uganda and Rwanda in May, is inching towards reforming a state that was allowed to implode by Mobutu. But serious questions remain over whether Mr Kabila is the real power in the Congo. Since his armed forces still rely heavily on Tutsi manpower from Rwanda,

"The jury is still out on Kabila and his entire regime. There has been a marked improvement in attitude compared to the Mobutu era. People turn up for work and corruption is being weeded out, civil servants are getting paid. But he has yet to cement his support among the urban elite, without whom he cannot hope to govern effectively," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa, the capital.

Yesterday, Mr Kabila left for Kigali, the Rwandan capital, where he was to hold talks with Paul Kagame, the Defence Minister and Vice-President. Mr Kagame admitted recently to having sent officers and large numbers of troops to fight in Mr Kabila's rebellion that toppled Mobutu.

Although Mr Kagame has insisted that all the men have now returned home, residents of Kinshasa say that many of Mr Kabila's troops are unable to speak Lingala, the lingua franca of the Congo, or French, the official language. One human rights source said

yesterday: "You now need to speak Swahili and English to get by around here. We're part of East Africa now."

Since taking power, Mr Kabila has moved swiftly to rebuild the shattered economy. In the past three months, his Government signed mining contracts worth about \$3 billion (£1.9 billion) with foreign investors. He has also broken the De Beers monopoly of the diamond industry by opening it to competition.

For the first time in three decades, ministers who take bribes may be prosecuted. In July, Mr Kabila's former Finance Minister, Mawapanga Mawa Nanga, was the subject of a police inquiry after allegations of corruption were made.

The President's main challenge is to defend himself against charges that he will be "another Mobutu" by addressing domestic and international calls for greater democracy, while rebuilding a nation 80 times the size of Belgium, its former colonial master. The country has no road or rail



President Mobutu reduced his mineral-rich country to poverty and anarchy during 32 years in power

routes linking its main cities and has a per capita income that is too low to warrant measuring. Key towns such as Kikwit, 200 miles east of its capital, have no regular power supply. In towns, trees grow

through the tarmacadam of main streets and transistor-radio batteries are a forgotten luxury.

Pro-democracy activists who opposed Mobutu — but never took up arms — have

complained bitterly about the new regime's curbs on their right to demonstrate for greater freedoms. Human rights groups said yesterday that a student was killed last week in clashes with troops in Kinshasa's main campus. At least 20 demonstrators have been killed in recent demonstrations calling for greater rights.

Leading article, page 19
Obituary, page 21

Dictator who delighted in chaos and witchcraft

"YOU know what his name really means?" smirked Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga's Minister of Information.

"It's not what we tell you — about him being the warrior who will never be vanquished and all that. It means 'the cockle who jumps all the chicks in the farm yard'," he smirked. "The old man has cuckolded all his potential opponents."

Hours after this bizarre encounter I met Mobutu. The low vulgarity of his minister was but a pale reflection of the high-kitsch leader himself.

In 1991, many of the once-gracious avenues of his capital had been reduced to rubble after an orgy of looting



Mobutu had a warped sense of humour, but the joke was invariably against his own people, Sam Kiley writes

which he orchestrated. The army, Civil Service and health workers had not been paid for months, and his Government was on the point of revolution.

But Zaire's President could not have been happier. Wearing a bright Mao-style jacket and a leopardskin hat, he traded insults with angry students on the lawn of his marble palace in Kinshasa, and shook the hand of Etienne Tshisekedi, the oppo-

sition leader he had just appointed Prime Minister, with a look of smugness.

The pleasure Mobutu took in discounting his enemies in co-opting them into his web of intrigue and corruption, and his genuine enjoyment of the chaos he caused in his country were the hallmarks of his 32 years in power. They were also the cause of his downfall this year.

The tall and charismatic

Joseph Desire Mobutu took power in a military coup in 1965. A former journalist and one-time CIA agent, his early years in power were marked by self-aggrandising and corrupt buffoonery which had the support of Washington, which saw him — as one State Department official put it — as "a bastard, but our bastard" during the Cold War.

His absolute rule through the Popular Movement for the Revolution, a party neither popular nor revolutionary, was shored up by Western allies who feared that Zaire's vast natural resources, including uranium, oil, diamonds, and 60 per cent of the world's cobalt, would fall into Kremlin hands. Until

the United States and the World Bank cut funding to his Government in 1990, Mobutu was convinced he would rule Zaire until his death. By then he had unleashed a policy of "authentication" on the country, banning Christian names and Western dress. He drove away foreign capital.

But the signs of the collapse of his country were all around him. At his palace he could not have failed to note that the walls were cracking, the plush red carpets were soggy, and the gardens were a mess, with fountains choked and marble paths overgrown.

Rattled by his rejection by the West, he turned to West African marabouts, or witch

doctors, at the end of the 1980s. They reassured him with the prophecy that he would never be deposed while he lived on water, so he moved his home to the Camanyola steamer moored on the Congo River.

Isolation was all he needed to ignore the cries of a people from whom he stole at least \$5 billion. The marabouts' promises and a policy of unleashing the army on looting rampages whenever the opposition gained strength seemed to him the potion that would keep him in power.

Confidence oozed from his greetings. When he put a large hand on my shoulder at a reception one temporarily forgot that the man was a

murderer who killed those whom he could not buy.

His rule by chaos kept him in power until Laurent Kabila, in a rapid military advance across the country, proved to Zaireans that the emperor had no clothes. Until it was too late, Mobutu neither knew nor cared, and his administration had long since been overtaken by despair.

At another of his palaces, this one alongside the Camanyola, I walked past his ceremonial bodyguard — pygmies in Napoleonic cavalry uniforms, high boots and plumed hats that covered their faces. One could only assume that he had a sense of humour. But the joke was on Zaire.

Support for Royal Family falls in Australia

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN support for the monarchy has plunged to an all-time low since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, while republican support has soared, an opinion poll has found.

The survey, which was conducted three days after the Princess's death, found that 53 per cent of Australians favoured a republic, compared with 47 per cent of those questioned in a similar poll last year. Support for a constitutional monarchy also fell from 42 per cent to 37 per cent.

Australian newspapers said the results of the poll reflected anger against the Royal Family for not publicly displaying grief until after heavy criticism. The survey also found that one in three of the 44 per cent of people who were readers of tabloid newspapers or women's magazines would read such publications less often as a result of the Princess's death. A further 70 per cent demanded tougher laws to protect the privacy of public figures.

Last night, John Howard, the Prime Minister, gave a warning of the danger of the republican debate being influenced by the death of the Princess. Calling for a considered debate on the issue, he said he hoped that the strong emotions stirred last week would not affect Australians' attitudes to whether they wanted to become a republic. "I hope it's done in an informed, calm way and not under the shadow of a really very traumatic week," he said.

Asked about the Royal Family's handling of the events of the past week, Mr Howard said: "They really are in a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't situation. If they had been too fulsome publicly at the beginning, people may have accused them of hypocrisy. By not doing that at the beginning they have been accused of reticence — it's a very difficult situation."

Banja Luka thwarts Karadzic supporters

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BRITISH troops and police loyal to the Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic, foiled plans for an explosive rally in her stronghold by her foes, supporters of Radovan Karadzic.

Only some 500 Karadzic supporters appeared in the centre of Banja Luka at the appointed hour, chanting anti-Plavsic slogans and waving Karadzic posters. Tensions were high, with riot

police guarding Mrs Plavsic's office and the main television studio. Pro-Plavsic people, vastly outnumbering those at the failed rally, booed, jeered and chanted.

With just three days left until municipal elections in Bosnia, Dr Karadzic's Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) is in disarray. Banja Luka is at the heart of the SDS's problems, and senior leaders of the party began arriving in the town at the weekend to pave the way for a rally.

Biljana Plavsic, the moderate Bosnian Serb leader who has been given political and military support by the West in her struggle against Dr Karadzic, was taking no chances and ordered her police out in force around Banja Luka. They were backed up by armoured personnel carriers belonging to the Krajina Corps, the element of the Bosnian Serb army most loyal to Mrs Plavsic.

British troops in Nato's

Stabilisation Force initially merely kept a watchful eye, but yesterday they were deployed in large numbers on the road east of Banja Luka, the main axis with the Karadzic bastions of Brecko, Bijeljina, Zvornik and the Drina Valley. A British Sfor spokesman said that American troops had joined the operation further east, guarding the strategic Brecko corridor which links Karadzic-controlled eastern Bosnia with Mrs Plavsic's western territory.



Howard: call for debate to be informed and calm



Bosnian Serb policemen check cars entering Banja Luka yesterday

Tokyo on alert as gang wars erupt into street battles

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

TOKYO police were put on alert yesterday as Japan's biggest crime syndicate threatened to erupt into a full-scale gang war. Shots were fired at a gang-leader's house, the latest in a spate of shootings, and police said that a bitter struggle among yakuza (gangsters) belonging to the Yamaguchi-gumi group was only just beginning.

Police are bracing for further retaliatory attacks triggered by the killing of Masaru Takumi, the number two man in the 18,000-strong Yamaguchi-gumi on August 28. Takumi, 61, was shot in Kobe by four gunmen believed to be members of a rival group.

The death of a bystander hit by a stray bullet shocked a nation that prides itself on safe streets and one of the world's lowest rates of crimes involving guns.

The cause of the current strife is said to be the declining strength of the yakuza, 40 per cent of whom belong to the Yamaguchi-gumi. Lucrative rackets such as extortion, prostitution and gambling have been hit by Japan's prolonged economic recession. The gang's front businesses such as property and restaurants are also bringing in less money. The Organised Crime Control Law, introduced in 1992, has further reduced the pickings.

Since police began their crackdown, crime syndicates have been forced to streamline operations. This has led to a great deal of bitterness

among those who have lost their livelihoods. Unemployed yakuza — conspicuous by their gaudy tattoos, and missing little fingers severed in a display of loyalty — are not the immediate choice of personnel managers hunting for new staff.

Takumi, the slain gang leader, was a strong believer in the yakuza tradition of not causing trouble to the public, and was at pains to improve the Yamaguchi-gumi's image: it was his idea to start a soup kitchen for Kobe earthquake survivors two years ago. But he attracted hostility for his tough restructuring methods. Weaker groups within the Yamaguchi-gumi were dissolved when their bosses died or retired, and their members pushed out. In particular, a group called the Nakano-kai objected to the way Takumi was running the syndicate.

Last week Yamaguchi-gumi leaders decided to expel this group's boss, Taro Nakano, because of his suspected involvement in Takumi's death. The Nakano-kai is believed to be the target of the daily shooting incidents in which two suspected yakuza have been wounded so far. □ Second term: Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, was automatically re-elected to a second term as President of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday when no other candidates came forward to challenge him. Mr Hashimoto, 60, will remain Prime Minister.

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The love that showed up on film

EDDIE ADAMS

In the first of three extracts from her new book, **Anne Sebba** examines Malcolm Muggeridge's role in the Mother Teresa phenomenon



MOTHER TERESA Beyond — the — image



The story of the miracle set the agenda for the next 20 years, whereby the assumption grew that God's hand was directing Mother Teresa

The beginning of the Sixties coincided with a tremendous momentum in Mother Teresa's charitable operation. She started to win international awards for her work, many of them with large cash prizes. There was a potent sense of idealism around, which she harnessed better than anyone else. There was a distinct feeling that here was someone who was actually doing something to right the ills of the world instead of merely demonstrating, or smoking dope, while talking of doing something.

Anyone who lived through the 1960s must remember the experimentation, the restlessness and the confusion, especially among the young. All ages react against their parents, but the 1960s were particularly vocal in dismissing the false conclusion of the previous age and in continuing to search for certainty or reassurance. Malcolm Muggeridge appeared to many to personally this quest for true goodness, or saintliness or moral truths.

Muggeridge was, in the early 1960s, not merely an agnostic but a mocker of religion in general. Born in south Croydon in 1903, he represented himself as an agonised seeker after truth who, in his youth, had flirted with the notion of becoming a priest. He made his name as a journalist on the *Manchester Guardian* and in 1934 had gone to live in India, working on the English-language *Calcutta Statesman*. On his return, he became a feature of

London literary life, partly because he had by now found his form as a writer, but also for the regularity with which he had affairs or made passes at women.

In 1968, in a rather inspired piece of casting, Oliver Hunkin, then head of religious broadcasting at the BBC, asked Muggeridge if he would do a short televised interview with a little-known nun from India. "He was rather put

did she first feel this special vocation? Any doubts or regrets?"

"Mother Teresa's answers were perfectly simple and perfectly truthful," Muggeridge explained later. "So much so that I had some uneasiness about keeping the interview going for the required half-hour. Controversy, the substance of such programmes, does not arise in the case of those who, like Mother Teresa, are blessed with certainties."

So ordinary was the interview that there was even some question about whether it should be broadcast. But it was transmitted in May 1968 in a BBC Sunday night series, called *Meeting Point*.

Afterwards, there were critics who recognised the extraordinary chemistry at play between the two protagonists, but there were many more members of the public who, moved by Mother Teresa's account of her work for the sick and poor of Calcutta, sent donations — according to one account £25,000 resulted from this single interview, although no appeal had been made.

All the accompanying letters made similar remarks about how Mother Teresa's words had spoken to them in a way that nobody else's ever had. Bemused BBC executives decided to repeat the programme rather quickly — with an even greater response.

Muggeridge said he never imagined that anything memorable had been recorded. And yet he was smitten. He had known that from the moment she walked into the room. "It was for me one of those special occasions when a face, hitherto unknown, seems to stand out from all other faces as uniquely separate and uniquely significant, to be thenceforth forever recognisable. Almost immediately, he worked to persuade the BBC to send him with a film crew to Calcutta to record Mother Teresa in action. In the spring of 1969, he went with Peter Chaffer, the producer, and Ken Macmillan, the award-winning cameraman, to make three religious films in India. Although initially reticent, Mother Teresa had apparently been persuaded to co-operate by Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster. She agreed, she told Muggeridge, "if this TV programme is going to help people love better".

In his account of the filming, Muggeridge recounts how, while Macmillan and the sound recordist were setting up their equipment, Mother Teresa suggested going up to the chapel together and praying. "I readily agreed... We knelt side by side." Thus, from the start, Muggeridge became part of the myth of the film he was making.

The next five days are shrouded in a fairytale cloak of divine protection. That a 50-minute documentary could be made at all in five days, rather than the normal two to three months, was, Muggeridge asserts, extraordinary to a miraculous degree. Secondly, the filming proceeded with quite exceptional smoothness and speed, with none of the usual breakdowns and crises. "All this, as anyone with experience of filming expeditions will know, amounted to a kind of miracle," Muggeridge wrote.

But the "actual miracle", which has prompted considerable debate since, concerns shots taken inside the Home for the Dying, which Macmillan was initially uncomfortable about filming. "This Home for the Dying is dimly lit by small windows high up in the walls," wrote Muggeridge. "Mr Muggeridge's

way with a fact has always been cavalier," commented Bernard Levin, in his essay, *Muggeridge's Game*. But all the same, "small" I recall them as arches, approximately three foot six high and three foot across... Facts do seem to be often ignored in this discussion, which usually centres on the nature of "kindly light", which Cardinal Newman refers to in his well-known hymn. Muggeridge, convinced he had witnessed the first authentic photographic

extraordinary. And I was going to say, three cheers for Kodak. I didn't get a chance, though, because Malcolm said 'It's divine light! It's Mother Teresa. You'll find that it's divine light, old boy.' And then I found I was being phoned by journalists from London newspapers saying things like 'We hear you've just come back from India with Malcolm Muggeridge and you were the witness of a miracle'.

With the filming completed, Muggeridge returned to England only to find the "miracles" continuing when he discovered that the film was already in the right shape and hardly needed editing. Mother Teresa wrote to him shortly afterwards: "I can't tell you how big a sacrifice it was to accept the making of a film — but I am glad now that I did — so because it has brought us all closer to God. In your own way try to make the world conscious that it is never too late to do something beautiful for God."

Chaffer, the producer, who describes himself as not religious, nonetheless insists that his life was permanently affected by making this film. "She is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. Very practical and running a very tight ship. I think she's awfully good at being a nun. The lady has such an enormous personality that for me,

all other preconceptions went out of the window." Chaffer is not prepared to stake an opinion on the miracle debate. "All I know is that I was extremely grateful to have my film. But it was not my film that put Mother Teresa on the map. No, it was her. If she had not had her own charisma it would not have worked. She definitely has something going right."

Chaffer was not alone in this view. It is impossible to know precisely what impact the film had in persuading young women to enter the Missionaries of Charity because, within Roman Catholic circles, Mother Teresa was fairly well known. Yet by 1970 they were flocking to join, and in that year alone 139 new candidates were received into the society.

How important is it for Mother Teresa to be a miracle-maker? A saint these days is still, strictly speaking, required to have performed or



Muggeridge: personified quest for truth

miracle, wrote: "This love is luminous, like the haloes... round the heads of saints. I find it not at all surprising that the luminosity should register on a photographic film. The supernatural is only an infinite projection of the natural." In all events, Macmillan was adamant that what filming was impossible in the Home for the Dying, the crew had only one small light and to get the place adequately lit in the time at their disposal was impossible. He had just taken delivery of some new film, which they had not even had time to test. Because of this, he agreed to have a go. "So we shot it. And when we got back, we were sitting in the rushes theatre at Ealing Studios and eventually up came the shots of the Home for the Dying, and you could see every detail. I said 'That's amazing, that's



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16.4%	306.00 447.00 595.00 638.16
17.4%	317.00 468.00 633.00 638.16
18.4%	328.00 489.00 671.00 638.16
19.4%	339.00 510.00 709.00 638.16
20.4%	350.00 531.00 747.00 638.16
21.4%	361.00 552.00 785.00 638.16
22.4%	372.00 573.00 823.00 638.16
23.4%	383.00 594.00 861.00 638.16
24.4%	394.00 615.00 899.00 638.16
25.4%	405.00 636.00 937.00 638.16
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Juliette Dominguez on her simulated blind date with "Nick Brown", alias Dr Eyal Pavell: "I was dissected on every level, from my appearance to the level of interest I showed in him"

Dating in New York is fraught with hazards. Just meeting another single (and romantically willing) person is an obstacle course of blind dates, dating services (such as "It's Just Lunch", which caters for busy professionals), the personal ads or just plain luck.

Even if you meet someone, there is another hurdle: most single New Yorkers have pared their personal lives down so much that the average date lasts no more than an hour, the same amount of time you might spend at a job interview - which is just how many New Yorkers view the dating process.

Ruthless runs through every social engagement - you have one shot at making the right impression on your date. Francesca Castagnoli, 26, a writer for *Mademoiselle* magazine, says: "New Yorkers are goal-orientated, and the attitude on a date is 'This is my job, this is what I do, and we have 40 minutes to hang out to see if you're on my wavelength - otherwise, scram.' If a date is not instantly rewarding, they would rather not make the effort. People are wedded to their jobs, personal trainers and aerobics classes, where there is a guaranteed reward and satisfaction. They don't

Single New Yorkers usually have only one shot at making a good impression, so many find it pays to consult a specialist, writes Juliette Dominguez

want to spend unnecessary time on dating.

This attitude inspired three psychologists - Dr Valerie White, Dr Ann Demarais and Dr Eyal Pavell - to form a new dating service. First impressions. Launched six months ago, it is open on Saturdays and some weekday evenings. The aim is to arm yourself for your date as you would for an interview.

Dr White, 34, and Dr Demarais, 37, have drawn on their experience of coaching executives of *Fortune* 500 companies on communication skills. "When we meet someone for the first time, there is often a gap between the way we are perceived and the ways others perceive us," says Dr White. "F.I. can bridge that gap. By interacting with you on a simulated date, then giving you feedback on the impression you make, an F.I. consultant [several other psychologists work part-time] can show you how to capitalise on your best qualities."

For a fee, of course - analysing your dating skills will cost you \$200. And isn't

there a danger of clients and doctors falling in love?

They shake their heads vigorously. "For a start, we are all in long-term relationships. Secondly, it would be highly unprofessional to want to date a client," says Dr Demarais. They're not joking. I was

'They are wedded to their careers, personal trainers and aerobics classes, where satisfaction is guaranteed'

asked to sign a "Participation Agreement", which stated: "I understand the date is purely a simulation and that there will be no physical contact between myself and the dating consultant. I agree not to pursue the consultant for social or romantic encounters."

With this in mind, I decided to take the bull by the horns and offer up my soul for inspection, and see if my rusty skills (I am happily attached) could be put back into use.

I was waiting, my palms sweating, at the designated spot in SoHo, downtown New York, when a tall, dark and attractive stranger asked me if I was his blind date. I nodded and followed him into the Paninoteca Cafe. After introducing himself as management consultant "Nick Brown", our date got under way. For the next hour, we discussed everything from the latest movies, books, politics and our respective professions to more personal topics, such as family relationships.

The date seemed to run smoothly, we got on amicably enough, and at the end he asked me out on a second date. I accepted happily enough, then realised it was time for the tough part. We arranged to

meet back at the F.I. offices half an hour later, where we spent the next two hours evaluating my performance.

"Nick", alias Dr Pavell, 33, started by saying that he would focus on my positive aspects first. He consulted a checklist as long as my arm, filled with comments such as "does not discuss marriage", "is not excessively self-focused", "does not fidget", "does not express boredom by yawning". I was dissected on every level, from my appearance, conduct and sense of humour to the level of interest I showed in "Nick".

"You exuded self-confidence, and I was very comfortable with you most of the time," says Dr Pavell. "You are 'high performance' - you score well on most levels, and don't have any big problems - just a few negatives. For example, it felt like you were interrogating me when you asked 'What is your type?' That is too premature to ask on a first date. And you must allow more room for your date. I felt I didn't have the chance to offer you a drink when we first sat down, and you tended to steer the conversation - it is a two-way street."

And my ideal mate? "Someone similar, who has the same kind of lifestyle and interests. You are a 'birds of a feather' type. Don't go for someone who is your opposite." Luckily, my boyfriend, Michael, is rather like me.

So who uses the service? Dr Pavell says there are two general types: "The less confident, who find it hard to get a date, and even harder to make one stick. They are introverted, visibly more nervous and not comfortable with themselves. I had a very shy woman who was silent throughout the date and kept disappearing off to the bathroom for ten minutes at a time. I helped her to realise the other person may feel just as nervous, and to channel this nervous energy into some-

thing positive, into letting the real person shine through.

"Another type has gone on hundreds of dates, and is very high-performing - a Wall Street professional, say, who has social graces down to a T. And there are those who've been out of the game for years, and find themselves divorced or widowed, or are unfamiliar with dating in this city or country."

One recent client, David Carr, 32, is a civil lawyer who lives in Manhattan. "I've been single and dating for a long time. Several times things have not worked out and I couldn't understand why. I felt like there was something I wasn't picking up on."

"The service was insightful. I found that although my conversational skills were good, and I came across as

confident, I focused too much on myself, and was prone to bragging. There was an imbalance in the conversation; apart from feeling self-centred, I was listening to what the other person had to say with only half an ear, and making insincere comments. I was communicating that the other person really wasn't important to me."

"I was happy for someone to put it into words, and help me start remedying my negative points. I pay a lot more attention to my date, am less dominant and really listen to what they have to say. And it has worked. I've seen one girl three times, and as I don't want to mess it up, I've decided to go on a follow-up session at F.I. to fine-tune my skills."

Chloe Adams, 36, is an

engineer who had been married for ten years before being thrust back into the world of singledom. She has dated sporadically, but felt people seemed to be taking her the wrong way.

"I wanted an objective third party to look at how I interacted and give me tips on how I could improve. I realised I came across as too aggressive. I've slowed down since. It helped me to see what my strong points were as well, and has given me a renewed sense of pride and confidence."

So is this just another neurotic New York fad, or is there really a need for it in a city renowned for its breakneck pace of working, living and now loving? A New York Post columnist, Amy Kean, says:

"People just don't have time to make mistakes or experiment. And people love hearing more about themselves."

"But it's not a bad idea, either. If you are going out dozens of times, and making the same turn-off mistakes, then it's best to discover what you're doing wrong."

Over the next couple of years, F.I. hopes to franchise the service and expand to Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. And it is looking at London as a potential site, too.

"Londoners are just like New Yorkers - they are busy and career-driven, they are living in a multicultural environment and they use dating services and personal ads, like us. I'm sure we could be of use there," says Dr Demarais.

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CHANGING TIMES

Richard Cork surveys the work of the Mexican revolutionary, in life as in art, David Alfaro Siqueiros

Look back on a lifetime of anger

One night in May 1940, David Alfaro Siqueiros, his wife, brother and two friends, burst into Leon Trotsky's house in Mexico City. Cornered in his bedroom, the exiled Russian was easy prey. But Siqueiros and his heavily armed associates bungled the assassination, firing through the closed bedroom door while Trotsky hid under the bed.

What had started out as a murder attempt ended in farce. Having failed to pin suspicion on his arch-rival Diego Rivera, Siqueiros found himself hunted by the police and, after Trotsky was killed by others in August, imprisoned. As a Stalinist hitman, he had been a disaster. But as a fiercely committed revolutionary muralist, he went on to become a hero in his own country. Public buildings across Mexico City are still emblazoned with his dynamic, belligerent wall-paintings, executed on the grandest scale imaginable.

How can such an artist ever be represented in an exhibition? The question hangs over the Whitechapel Art Gallery's survey of one tumultuous decade in Siqueiros's long career. Starting in 1930, when he was arrested and incarcerated in the Lecumberri Penitentiary, the survey brings together many of the most important easel paintings and graphic works he produced over the next ten years. But an exploration of his murals is inevitably confined to a video screened in the gallery, and it cannot hope to convey their sheer visceral impact.

Compared with their headlong fervour, the pictures assembled at the Whitechapel seem disappointingly subdued. Predominantly dark, the paintings suggest that Siqueiros had a puritanical mistrust of colour. His murals prove otherwise; but when at work away from the hospitals and palaces where his headiest ambitions were fulfilled, he sacrificed all that exuberance for a darker alternative.

Once I had adjusted to the gloom, though, Siqueiros's individuality began to emerge. In a 1934 self-portrait, he refuses to see himself as a static, contemplative character. Executed in a typically idiosyncratic combination of black crayon and tempera on a zinc support, it shows him with mouth parted and wild, protruding eyes. The white marks slashed across his forehead, nose and cheek look as aggressive as warpaint.

No wonder he was so often jailed. The pursuit of art alone, divorced from political struggle, would never have satisfied this instinctive activist. He gave up painting altogether in the late 1920s, devoting himself instead to militant union struggles. But after meeting Eisenstein in 1931, he turned

A disaster as a hitman, he became a hero as a muralist

back to art and held his first one-man show the following year.

The sombre mood of his pictures is understandable, given the time Siqueiros had spent in prison. Most of the figures he paints are alone, and hard to discern in the shadows encircling them. One seated woman is based on a 60-year-old peasant who offered to pose for her portrait. But Siqueiros made her gaunt, hooded face look younger, and she hugs herself on a hard, coffin-like box as if desperate for comfort.

Siqueiros's brushwork is the opposite of seductive. He heaps on the pigment until it forms a heavily corrugated surface, so solid that the images end up with a strong

sculptural presence. He often painted on burlap, and its thick, bristly texture adds to his work's ungratifying air. Art, for Siqueiros, had nothing to do with hedonism. He dedicated himself to the plight of the oppressed, and refused to indulge in facile optimism.

Prison subjects proliferate in the early 1930s, and the people they depict are anonymous embodiments of anguish. Two Indian women stand tense and motionless, their heads hidden by blue shawls. They seem to symbolise a permanent state of mourning. Although a cluster of women in another painting push back their head dresses while waiting outside a penitentiary, Siqueiros declines to give them any facial features.

Only when a claustrophobic prison cell is revealed, with torture in progress, do the figures take on a more specific identity. But the moustachioed man hanging by his thumbs from the ceiling is still generalised. He signifies the suffering of all Mexicans victimised by the suppression of the country's Communist Party. And the two sprucely uniformed guards staring up at him are no more particularised. One of them wags a finger at the dangling man, as if to admonish him for his screams.

Siqueiros himself seems to have been spared torture during his incarceration at Lecumberri. Ever resourceful, he used fragments of crates to carve a series of 13 small woodcuts. Subsequently printed on bright orange tissue paper, they are among the liveliest and most concise of all his works. Their mood, however, remains uncompromising. Single figures of prisoners, bound and helpless, are juxtaposed with ranks of identical, implacable guards. For all the prints' grimness, though, some highlight more tender feelings. A faceless mother clasps her child in a passionate embrace, as if afraid that her offspring might be snatched away like so many other women's husbands and sons.

Soon afterwards, Siqueiros painted a much larger picture of a child alone. The boy's expression is stunned, and he slumps onto the pavement like a bewildered orphan with nowhere else to go. Siqueiros became preoccupied with the plight of all those Mexicans bereaved and impoverished by the perpetual internecine conflicts. One of his most monumental easel paintings shows a *Proletarian Mother*, hunched and squatting against bleak brick walls. They hem her in, and the three infants surrounding the woman claw despairingly at her body. Paralysed by wretchedness, she makes no attempt to reassure them. The children seem to increase their mother's misery, reminding her how incapable she is of alleviating their distress.

Siqueiros became even harsher when he painted a *Proletarian Victim*. Full-breasted and sinewy, the grey-haired woman is built according to heroic proportions. But her limbs are trussed tightly with thick ropes, and blood seeping from



Siqueiros's association with the Spanish Civil War informed the powerful portrait *Down but not Defeated* (1939)

a gunshot wound in her head shows she has been executed. Painfully pressed in close-up against the rasping, hairy surface of the burlap, the corpse shows Siqueiros's eagerness to break out of the easel picture's confines.

His decision to paint it with pyroxylin, a commercial enamel initially used for the exteriors of aeroplanes, also demonstrates his willingness to experiment with new media. This technical innovation came to a head when he moved to New York in 1935. Establishing a major workshop where his students included Philip Guston and Jackson Pollock, he encouraged them to drip and pool their paint. The significance of this unfettered approach for the development of postwar American abstraction hardly needs stressing.

But Siqueiros himself stayed faithful to figurative art, and the paintings of the late 1930s benefited from a new bold-

ness. Ceramic fragments are used with oil and pyroxylin in *The End of the World*, a fiery and apocalyptic protest against the Luftwaffe's bombing of Toledo. Siqueiros became so involved with the Spanish Civil War that he gave up art for two years. Even so, he returned to painting with renewed power. *Down but not Defeated* is his pugnacious title for the cold, muscular figure who hits the ground in a wrenchingly foreshortened pose. Although the man has been defeated by Franco, his fists remain tightly bunched and his hair fizzes with nervous resilience.

Siqueiros's baleful 1939 self-portrait is mesmerising, centred on a bloodshot eye widened in foreboding. He looks older now, and manic enough to embark on the Trotsky escape a year later. But the anguish in his furrowed face is present, too, gazing with alarm at a world on the edge of annihilation.

Whitechapel Art Gallery (0171-522 7878) until Nov 2

LONDON GALLERY ROUND-UP

THE installation by the Canadian artist Doug Brown in and around empty classrooms over a disused swimming pool in a founding hospital is gently confusing. Brown shows his well-finished, smoothly sanded sculptural pieces, plays recorded sounds of children playing on a beach and has even stretched a painted tarpaulin across an empty blackboard. But it is difficult to know where the independent autonomous art work stops and the installation starts, and the metaphor becomes overstretched.

Thomas Coram Foundation, 40 Brunswick Square, WC1 (0171-278 3424) until Oct 1

DUNCAN CARGILL has chosen to show a series of straightforward formal paintings by Peter Davis to launch his new gallery. Thin fine stripes repeated methodically on a deep aluminium base build a level of pressure across

each painting, using a now very familiar language—dark blue, light blue or pink and apricot. The colour starts to look as if it has been drawn from too obvious a range of permutations, so these relatively small-surfaced paintings probably work better on their own than in a group.

Duncan Cargill Gallery, 22 Warren Street London W1 (0171-388 3603) until Oct 25

SACHA CRADDOCK

Venus at the double

THE world's attention was directed elsewhere in Kensington on Friday, which may explain the poor attendance for the UK premiere of one of Hans Werner Henze's most accessible works. *Venus and Adonis*, described by the composer as "an opera in one act for singers and dancers", was received rapturously when it was first given by the Bavarian State Opera in January, and it was easy to see why.

Henze's librettist, Hans-Ulrich Treichel, has come up with a complex dramatic structure that depends on a staging to do it full justice. The three principal characters—Venus, Adonis and Mars—are dancing roles, doubled by a Prima Donna, Clemente (an opera singer) and the Hero-Player, who are rehearsing a *Venus and Adonis* opera, paralleling the action at every turn. There are also six "madrigalists" whose choral commentaries punctuate the action, and three more dancers playing a stallion, a mare

and the wild boar that finally kills Adonis.

In this concert performance we were denied the dancers and thus the entire double-frame of the action. In musical terms, however, the evening was a triumph. Henze deploys the orchestra skilfully, dividing it into three ensembles, each associated with a principal. Climactic outbursts are generally reserved for the series of seven instrumental boleros, and Markus Stenz was careful to subordinate his BBC Symphony Orchestra forces to the demands of the vocal lines. The idiom has a neo-Romantic, Mediterranean warmth, making the final threnody, with alto saxophone and a quartet of horns, unbearably moving.

Evelyn Herlitzus, who has the incisiveness of a young Felicity Palmer, was outstanding as the Prima Donna, Christopher Ventris a lyrical Clemente, and Ekkehard Wlaschiha, best known in London for his menacing Alberich in the Covent Garden *Ring*, brought some of the gruffness of that role to the Hero-Player. Given the madrigalian element of Henze's work, and the inspiration of Monteverdi in particular, it was fitting to devote the first half to madrigals from that composer's Eighth Book. Their contrasting characters were vividly realised by Paul McCree's Gabrieli Consort and Players.

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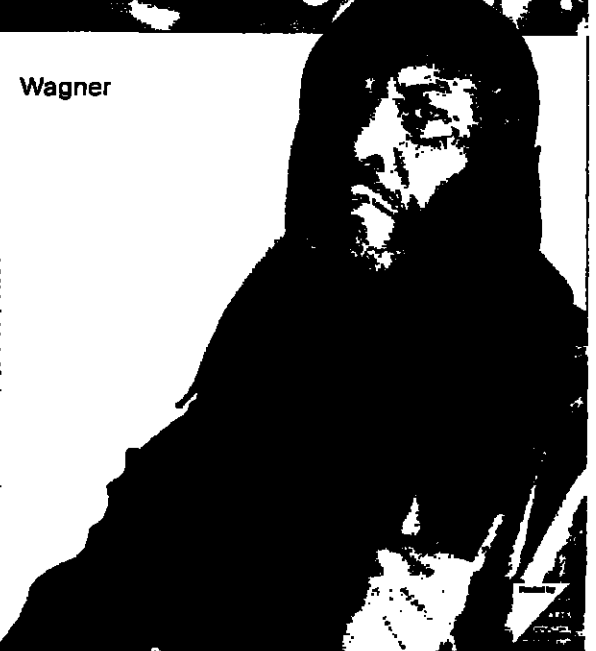
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Trudging towards a new dawn

Reassuringly real, the TUC still has a future, says John Lloyd

Launched yesterday without celebrity, the TUC conference remains what it has been for decades: the annual expression of a movement of substance.

If, as last week appears to have shown, image and symbolism are to play as large a part in national political life as does reality, then the TUC is clearly out of step. It can change — has changed, is changing — but cannot reinvent itself. It remains too rooted in the day-by-day, in the detail and the felt experience — what people must face when they turn away from the highs and the lows manufactured by the media.

Yet this could be a plus. There could be a place in public life for an institution which refuses to submit to the law that only hyper-visibility confers meaning: that suffering requires the ministrations of a Princess, for example. The TUC could become the symbol of a body which refuses to be treated merely as a symbol: the image of a modernised estate of the real which is interested in more than image.

This is one way forward for the TUC. There are three others.

The most contentious area now is union recognition

be brought down. Entry into EMU, says the TUC, would accomplish much of that.

The larger companies which are the keenest to see a single currency are also generally those which recognise unions, pay above what is likely to be the minimum wage and have introduced works councils — that is, they have little difficulty with large parts of social legislation. Smaller companies do: here the TUC is attempting to extend the hand of partnership as well, both to confirm the unions' new stance and to open up possibilities for recruitment.

Thirdly, unions everywhere have taken heart — perhaps too much heart — from the victory which the US Teamsters' union achieved at United Parcel Services (UPS). A two-week strike saw the union win higher pay, particularly for part-time workers, the conversion of 10,000 part-time jobs into full-time posts and the retention of a union-run pension scheme.

Robert Reich, the former US Labour Secretary, sees in the deal a sign that unions could again become the representatives of an excluded workforce, the losers from a globalisation process which immensely

privileges professionals but which penalises the fetchers and carriers, diggers and sweepers, servers and carriers. Many of these have not looked to unions, traditionally based around the once vast agglomerations of industry, for protection. Now, says Reich, UPS points the way to a series of similar struggles which could capture public sympathy.

Unions have tried in various ways to organise the working excluded, with limited success. But they are trying new ways — the creation of an "organising academy" will be endorsed this week, where fiery spirits will be taught to channel their idealism into recruitment campaigns.

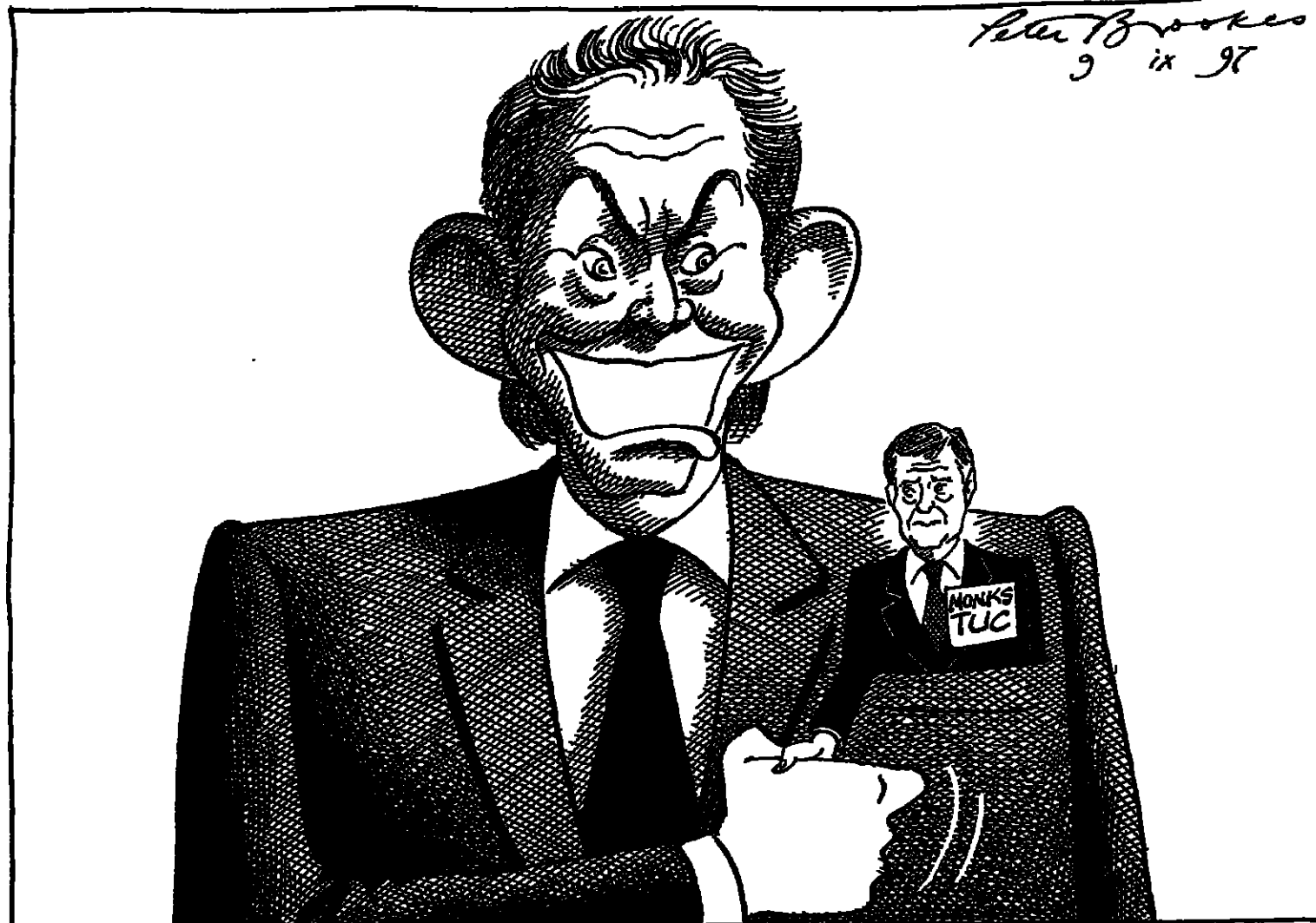
Inevitably, the unions will be drawn into making the fights they pick with employers accord more with the themes of the popular media.

They have tried, in this congress, by publicising the names of a handful of large "bad employers" who keep out unions and offer low pay. It is a sign of a new kind of public relations, as well as an abandonment of remnants of a general anti-capitalist case.

Unions have roles, real and not symbolic, at the top and bottom of the social order. The TUC is well led, the union general secretaries constrained to be realistic, the Prime Minister and Government non-communally friendly. If the unions do not succeed now, then the underlying forces in the economy which have been responsible for depleting their ranks will be seen to dominate over the political and the voluntary.

And then, they really will need a celebrity. But by then it will be too late.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman



'PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS' (CONFERENCE SLOGAN)

Bravely said, brother

Earl Spencer may not be a diplomat, but he spoke straight from the heart

The trouble is that I suddenly don't want to be part of journalism any more. Ruin and unemployment loom. It is my own fault, I suppose, for consuming too many media, but how else is a provincial to keep up? Now, though, the weight of it has toppled over and crushed the spirit.

For if Diana, Princess of Wales, was a candle in the wind, we media are the wind-machine. Our racket smothered the central sadness of what happened. We are saccharine, self-regarding, neurotic and competitive: we waver between sentimentality, misplaced outbreaks of cleverness and dreadful plonking comments about The Culture and The People.

An agony aunt turns up in a tabloid castigating the idea of the Princess walking behind the coffin: once they have done so — with a dignity they will be glad of all their lives — the same writer pops up in a broadsheet to condemn tabloids which tell the Royal Family what to do. Another, who sneered incessantly at Diana in life, justifies a sugary volte-face by prosing on about the nature of myth. The vaunted mood of national unity is marred by class hostility as the pop papers willfully misunderstand the usefulness to "toffs" of a dark suit and a stiff upper lip, while the broadsheets wonder superciliously why the common people leave the Cellophane on their bouquets. (Easy. Cellophane and ribbons mean "look, I didn't nick these from the park. I paid good money for them, to prove I care".)

Then the political writers break cover, with a graceless rant from an archetypal Tory boy in *The Sunday Telegraph* accusing Labour spin-doctors of somehow stealing Diana. Print sneers at television while watching every frame, television steals newspaper angles while sneering back. Talk Radio asks listeners to nominate an actress to play "Di" in the biopic. Only Radio 4, an oasis of phlegm, decides that what the national psyche requires is a repeat of *The Winslow Boy* and Penelope Keith reading *Winnie the Pooh*.

All other news is drowned by the roaring of the wind-machine: even yesterday, plucky little souls attempting to interest us in Scottish devolution struggled like mountaineers trying to pitch a pup tent in a hurricane. Only the irrepressible Terry Wogan struck a bearable note on Radio 2. "Ah now, I'm like the rest

of you, I want to keep on moping but we mustn't, must we?"

I hoped not to be part of this. The weekend mostly passed in what felt like a reasonably appropriate contemplative quiet, talking with my children, sewing and sorting and marking things for the new school term. Life far from cities and cathedrals was normal, if quiet and tinged with the universal sadness. The queue stretched a little way outside Saxonmum Market Hall to sign the book of condolence, everybody shut their shops and friends talked quietly about the senseless sadness of it all, and how it brought to mind past losses of their own. I would rather have left it there, something never to be forgotten but not to be harped on. However, with apologies, I am going to add my one last word. I want to defend Earl Spencer, all the way.

Some of the phrases used about his funeral eulogy have been extraordinary: "calculated vengeance", "brutality" and "opening wounds". He was bitter, they said, "intemperate... divisive... ill-judged". Irrelevant, too: just an "expatriate uncle" from a "dysfunctional family" which could offer little to his nephews.

Puzzled, I went to the tape and watched the Earl's speech again, just as we had watched it on Saturday, sewing name-tapes into school socks through a mist of tears. Had I missed something? Something to justify "brutal, bitter, divisive"? No. All I could hear was a brother.

It is, these days, a largely unsung relationship, but several women said to me that last week they wished for the first time ever that they had a brother of their own. Even those with sisters said it. There is powerful, ancient comfort to be felt at the idea of a man — without the possessiveness of a husband or the authority of a father — defending and praising a woman, strongly but without illusion, giving a tribute better than admiration, glowing with utter familiarity but untainted by the weariness and guilt of daily contact. I have three

brothers and to me Lord Spencer sounded just right. Analysts may pretend that his words were political or iconoclastic: instinct accepts them as brotherly and brave.

What did he speak, but the plain truth? It is true that Diana's qualities did not depend on royal title alone. Cynics predicted that the fascination with her would diminish when she lost a part of that title, but it did not. She shone even brighter alone, more fascinating to worshippers and more comforting to those whose sadness she tried to alleviate. Why should her brother not say so? It is a fact, strange, but true.

And he did not, after all, gloss over other facts, such as her emotional vulnerability and her eating disorder. Stripped bare by grief, rejecting cliché and platitudes, he spoke of his sister with the frankness which is a brother's privilege.

We should be grateful to him. After a week of mawkish illusion in which every one of us constructed our own phantom Diana, Lord Spencer spoke of the real one. He affirmed the reality of the girl who kept her small brother amused on the long, gloomy train journeys between estranged parents, of the sister with a wicked laugh, of the chronically (perhaps sometimes annoyingly) insecure woman who yearned for love. No girl is a heroine to her brother, but there is great security in the fond, exasperated kinship of somebody who harbours no romantic ideas about you.

Nor was it disrespectful to promise his nephews that the "blood family" of their mother would always be with them as a counterweight to royal life. The boys are Spencers, too. Their uncle spoke for half their lineage and half their temperament. As he did so there was a fleeting shadow of old Earl Spencer, who had his failings but whose cheerful disregard for strict dignity once charmed onlookers on Diana's engagement day. Remember him, beaming at the Palace gates with his battered camera to take his own snaps? Why is it irrelevant that with Diana dead, her brother should

pledge himself to encourage her boys in her warm, instinctive style?

Every child has a right to its emotional inheritance from two families. The Earl explicitly acknowledged their Windsor heritage of duty and tradition, but firmly laid claim to his own side. His sister wanted them to have wide experience of people, to talk informally, to trust their feelings and let their souls "sing openly". If her siblings can further that aim, it is their duty: which of us — however much we like them — wants our children brought up entirely in our in-laws' ways and values?

In the same way, the Earl intervened to take Diana's body to safety on the lake island, defying those who wanted constant public access to her grave. That too was a brotherly act: the alternative posed horrible risks. The parallel, pace Simon Jenkins, is not with Churchill's grave but with that of Sylvia Plath, which to this day is still regularly claimed and ideologically defaced by those who think they reverence her, but never knew her and care nothing for her living children.

All week we have been told that Britain is sloughing off the carapace of old formalities for an attitude more respectful of individuals, less like an army and more like a family (heck, even the army has just promised to be more sensitive to recruits). It is a very British irony that a belted Earl, who heads a family in archaic precedence over his elder sisters, should be the figurehead of this change. But on Saturday, it seemed to me, the young Lord Spencer stood precisely where the nation stands: between tradition and modernity, the idea of "great families" and the acknowledged reality of plain family feeling.

He is not a diplomat, but he is his brother and he did a brother's duty. There is no need to look for a spark of hostility, still less to fan it with our wind-machines. The Prince of Wales is a just and gentle man. He will respect the Earl's claim. And if any royal courtiers dispute it, they have only to remember how the applause filled the parks and the streets and spread, in a shocking, liberating moment, right into the gloomy heart of the abbey. It was not for the gentle hagiography of Elton John that the congregation inside the building broke protocol and silence. It was for the authentic, irrefutable, unsentimental claims of a brother, and of blood.

Voting, yes yes — but to what?

The referendum is premature, says

Peter Riddell

The "devolution adventure". It was a telling phrase, especially coming from someone as fastidious as Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary. He was introducing Tony Blair at his first public political meeting after his almost apolitical week as chief mourner for the nation.

During an hour's question-and-answer, it was almost as if the extraordinary events of the previous eight days had not occurred, or rather, had happened without affecting the normal terms of political debate. There was Mr Blair, talking in his shirtsleeves in the middle of a school gym in Edinburgh, answering questions on student fees, market testing, terrorism and community councils. Back to normal — perhaps.

But for all Mr Blair's Scottish connections and education at Fettes, there was also the sense of a very English Prime Minister coming north of the border to engage in what has become almost a private debate. The tone of some of the questions was wary and one or two were hostile. Because of his easy self-confidence, he appears an outsider, the type of smart Londoner whom Scots have mistrusted for generations.

Mr Blair talks about the issue differently, presenting devolution as one aspect of the modernisation of Britain (a phrase now fashionable in the post-Diana mood) rather than the overwhelming, almost obsessive priority it is for much of the Scottish political class.

Yesterday he was like an enlightened headmaster urging a bright pupil to take responsibility for his actions. It is up to the Scots what they make of their new powers. They have "nothing to be frightened of", and in a strange echo of Franklin Roosevelt, he said "there is nothing to be afraid of apart from fear itself". Like Mr Dewar's use of the word "adventure", it is a curious way to talk about such a decision.

Thursday's vote is unsatisfactory in many ways. This is not really because of the interrupted, truncated campaign. The Scots have had plenty of time to consider whether they want a parliament and all the signs are that the answer will be yes, probably by a margin of more than two to one, to judge by recent polls. The margin may be much narrower on the second question of whether the parliament should have tax-varying powers. But here, also, it is a strange debate, since what is being proposed is more modest and limited than the powers of any American state and of most large cities. As Mr Blair hinted, the greater doubts about tax powers signify a lack of self-confidence. It is as if the Scots are worried about taking the prize that so many of them have wanted for so long.

But the referendum is flawed because it is being held at the wrong time, on the wrong issues. It was devised by Mr Blair 15 months ago and forced on a reluctant Scottish Labour Party as a means of showing the scale of public support for devolution, so as to minimise time-wasting parliamentary opposition, particularly in the Lords, to the substantive legislation. But May 1 removed the need for such a pre-legislative referendum. The Tory rout and wipeout in Scotland undermined the opponents of devolution and ensured that any legislation should have a relatively smooth parliamentary passage.

But not only is Thursday's vote now politically unnecessary, it is also premature. The Government's White Paper on devolution was a skilful and elegant exercise in compromise but several key questions are unresolved — notably over the central government grant for public spending and the number of Westminster MPs, where in both cases Scotland is more generously treated than England. The Scots are not yet really being faced with decisions about their future relations with the rest of the United Kingdom. This is because the devolution proposals were devised by Scots, for Scots, with almost no English input until Mr Blair became Labour leader. Inevitably, some of these broader issues of finance and representation will be refined when the substantive legislation goes through the Commons and Lords this winter.

There has been talk of an English backlash against Scotland being given an overprivileged position. But this is much exaggerated. The last MORI poll for *The Times* suggested that a majority of the English, most of all in London, hold the reasonable belief that the Scots should have devolution if they want it. Britain has never had a wholly symmetrical constitution. Scotland has a national identity distinct from England.

But the current proposals will work only if the package is balanced for the whole UK and does not retain the special advantages that Scotland now enjoys. The right time to assess that will be after the legislation has emerged in a final form next summer. This is when a referendum should be held. Thursday's vote should not be the final word. It is a stage, albeit an important one, in Mr Dewar's "adventure" — a chance to show whether the Scots are any longer afraid of themselves.

Anatole Kaletsky is away

Satanic version

FAIRYTALE? Or Greek tragedy? Instead, for Salman Rushdie the life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is straight from the stomach-churning pages of J.G. Ballard's *Crash*.

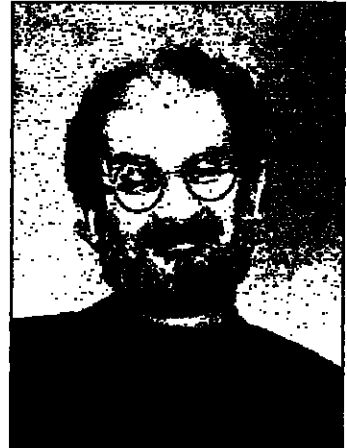
Rushdie draws a shocking analogy in the latest edition of *The New Yorker* to argue that Diana died in a "sublimated sexual assault". This, he says, parallels the dark themes in Ballard's book and in David Cronenberg's film, in which the perverted eroticism of car crashes echoes the twisted nihilism of a society in decline.

"In Diana's fatal crash," says Rushdie, "the Camera (as both Reporter and Lover) is joined by the Automobile and the Star, and the cocktail of death and desire becomes even more powerful than the one in Ballard's book."

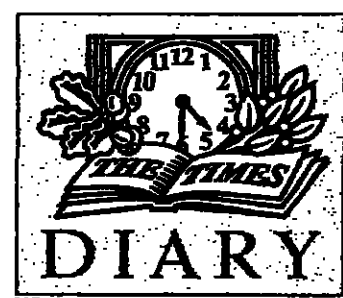
"The object of desire is repeatedly subjected to the unwelcome attentions of a persistent suitor (the Camera) until the dashing, glamorous knight (riding in his Automobile) sweeps her away. The Camera, with its unavoidably phallic long-lensed snout, gives pursuit. And the story reaches its tragic climax, for the automobile is driven not by a hero but by a

clumsy drunk. The object of desire, in the moment of her death, sees the phallic lenses advancing upon her, snapping. She died in a sublimated sexual assault."

● The letters of condolence sifting Kensington Palace are as nothing compared with those awaiting Prince William, 15, on his return to Eton next week. It is estimated that more than half the 1,200 boys in the school, many spurred on by



Bad taste day: Rushdie



their mothers, have written sympathetic letters to the Prince. Happily, the majority will not be expecting replies. "It is just a mark of solidarity," said one boy. "We all began our letters by telling him on no account to acknowledge them."

When I'm 71

IT is the end of a long and winding road. Sir George Martin, the Beatles' producer, is to retire. Saturday afternoon's hasty re-recording of Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* marks the end of his magisterial rule.

The 71-year-old's decision was helped along by his growing deafness. "It doesn't matter now because I'm an old man and I don't want to do any more music, but it's annoying socially," he reflects. "If I

was Jean Paul Gaultier I would probably wear gold-encrusted hearing aids and make a feature of it. But I'm not."

Words worth

IF the word "grief" sums up the past week, then which word captures the whole century? The question is to be posed in a national competition by Collins dictionaries. And their suggestion? "Bikini".

Other words being tossed into the debate by lexicologists include computer, silicon chip, convenience food, psychedelic, A-bomb and even Aids, confirming suspicions that this has been a rather gloomy century.

"We have a large database which we hope to exploit to pinpoint the year a word became common currency," says Guy Pringle of Collins. "We want to see how language evolved." In November the public will be invited to vote for a word from a list of 100 that have entered the dictionary since 1897 — one for each year. First suggestion: "orgasm" (discovered 1960).

Dear deer

DIANA'S death has not dampened sporting spirits at Balmoral, where

the Queen will receive a stalking party. Guests, expected later this week, will stay red deer on the estate described by Queen Victoria as "this dear paradise".

Many royals have been blooded there, including Prince William last year. Chief competitor will be Prince Philip, the firm's most tireless killer. During the past 30 years it is estimated that he has shot one tiger, two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, innumerable stags, rabbits and ducks and 30,000 pheasants.

● Good news. My predecessor suggested that *Harrods* staff would not be paid for taking a day off to commemorate the late Princess. I am now assured that toilers there will be remunerated. Tip-top.

Poetic soul

EVEN the Saudi Ambassador to London has written a tribute in verse to the late Princess, despite being bogged down in negotiations with HMG over the two British nurses who are on trial for murder in his homeland. His Excellency Dr Ghazi A. Algasabli, an accomplished poet, has sent *The Tale of the Butterfly* for my perusal. Some might find his poem of five stanzas — one reprinted below — reminiscent of a Keatsian ode. She was an impulsive butterfly



Foul-mouthed: Moore

who shunned the sky/plunged into flames/and exploded — in a carnival of lights/leaving behind/lewd, friendless souls.

● Starring in the low-rent military movie, *GI Jane*, has done little to enhance the vocabulary of the actress Demi Moore. So foul-mouthed has she become that the usually robust sensitivities of her husband, the actor Bruce Willis, have been strained. "Bruce continues to bring it up," she says. "Even my driver noticed how many curse words I use per phone call."

P.H.S



SPACE FOR DREAMS

In space, sound science should go together with benign politics

Mir's main computer broke down yesterday, number 1,500 and something in the long saga of troubles on the space station. Each of this summer's emergencies has been followed by more or less heroic salvage operations, a blend of modern science and DIY cobbling that would have warmed Heath Robinson's heart. These incidents have also shown that in perseverance and talent for improvisation, Russia's cosmonauts and space scientists are second to none. So long as lives are not lost, even bad publicity can rekindle popular interest. But Mir's mishaps ought also to sharpen debate about just what man should be attempting in space.

Mir's battered condition is no surprise; although some of the scientific modules attached to it are of more recent date, the ship's core has been in orbit for 11 years, double its planned life. This is an unmatched achievement. But inevitably, Mir's woes invite comparison with the unmanned Pathfinder mission to Mars, a triumph for the robotic scientists of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa). The first in a planned series of ten such missions, Pathfinder and its Sojourner robot have cost Nasa a modest \$286 million — reflecting Nasa's pledge to find "cheaper, faster, better" ways to explore space.

The comparison has sharpened the debate between enthusiasts for putting humans in space and those who contend that brainpower transferred to robots is a sounder scientific investment. Mir's main use nowadays is as test-bed for work on the Alpha space station, due to be launched in stages between next year and 2003, in which the US, Russia, the European Union, Canada and Japan are investing no less than \$20 billion. It is unclear what new worlds this orbiting monster, five times as heavy as Mir and the size of a football pitch, can hope to conquer.

Alpha is not just a scientific project but the centrepiece of America's grand strategic programme of binding Russia, and Russian science, to the West. Its origins lie in President Clinton's order to Nasa, back in

1993, to work with Russia instead of competing with it. Two years later, the first American space shuttle docked with Mir, where mixed crews have since learnt to work together while American and Russian scientists sit shoulder to shoulder at Mission Control. American scientists judge that this experience has enabled their manned space programme to jump ahead by five years. In return, America is contributing \$473 million to Mir over five years, making it one of the few parts of Russia's space programme which sees the colour of real money instead of unreliable government promissory notes.

Russia's budgetary problems are, however, seriously delaying the Alpha project. Coupled with the ignominious fate of Russia's Mars '96 probe, which plunged into the Pacific last November shortly after launch, this has prompted questions about Moscow's value as a space partner. Standard cost-benefit calculations are short-sighted, however, and not only because the hugely innovative technology devised for Mars '96 commands scientists' respect. Russia still makes the world's finest, and highly profitable, rockets — technology as applicable to war as to peace. The West has every interest in joint enterprises that engage the brains of Russia's world-class, underpaid, space scientists and engineers.

But rather than building Alpha components, Russian brainpower might be better employed combining with American expertise to upgrade the unmanned missions to Mars and other planets which are yielding dramatic scientific gains at low cost. If manned missions do have a future, it might be wiser to abort the plans for the next orbiting station and concentrate scientific and financial resources on Nasa's longer-term goal of a manned mission direct to Mars. Mr Clinton is right to champion co-operation in space for the political and economic, as well as scientific, benefits it can yield on Earth. But this co-operation will be most effective and thus most durable if it yields solid scientific returns.

STUCK IN THE PAST

Trade unions have yet to understand the point of flexibility

One of the first rules of negotiation is not to ask for the earth. This is a lesson that some British trade unionists have still to learn. It was not enough for John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, to warn his colleagues yesterday: "Don't dream too much; face reality." Still they stood up at the annual TUC conference to demand the undesirable and impossible from the Government.

The latest campaign is for the implementation of John Smith's pledge to give workers the right to redundancy and to claims for unfair dismissal from the first day of their employment. This was a promise that the late Labour leader gave under intense pressure before the 1993 party conference, at which he needed union support to pass his one-member-one-vote reforms. Yesterday John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, demanded universal rights from day one and the conference approved a policy resolution backing him.

Yet Mr Smith's promise was soon reversed by Tony Blair when he became Labour leader. To press for a return to the past is as quixotic as calling for nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy. Trade unions cannot even claim that they are moving further and faster than the Government and that ministers will eventually catch up. Mr Blair is moving in the opposite direction: if he will not give in now, he is most unlikely to do so later.

His intransigence makes perfect economic

sense. Employment rights from day one have never been implemented by any previous Labour Government. The reason is that they swiftly turn into benefit rights. For employers are far less likely to take on new workers if they face expensive redundancy or dismissal claims from the start.

It is easy to make a mistake in hiring people; this must be allowed to be rectified. But more important, employers need to be able to lay off staff in periods of slack demand and to rehire when the economy picks up. Trade unions always used to be in favour of the "last-in-first-out" principle: if those who have served less than two years are the first to go, this ought to be seen as just.

There will always be a few unscrupulous employers who make a point of hiring people for one year and 364 days before dismissing them. But if the qualifying period were reduced, say, to six months, these employees' jobs would be even less secure. They would work for five months and 30 days instead.

Almost all economists agree that the reason why Britain's unemployment levels now fall more sharply during a recovery than those of other European countries is that the Conservative labour market reforms have made taking on new workers less of a risk. Trade union leaders ought to appreciate these virtues. Instead, for all their crocodile tears for the unemployed, they are far more interested in enhancing the "rights" of their dwindling band of working members.

DEATH OF A KLEPTOCRAT

Congolese are still counting the heavy cost of Mobutu's misrule

Few will mourn for Mobutu Sese Seko, the ousted dictator of Zaire who died in exile in Morocco on Sunday. In the country this prince of kleptocrats — the word was coined for him — pillaged for more than 30 years, people are still as angry at the destruction he left as they are despairing of quick improvement under its new rulers. The brief euphoria when the victorious rebel army of Laurent Kabila swept into Kinshasa in May has already subsided. The symbolic change of name to the Democratic Republic of Congo cannot mask the immensity of the task facing Mr Kabila. Corruption, violence and plunder are long-established norms. A new start demands time, patience and money.

Some newspapers are now voicing popular frustrations as well as the partisan demands of politicians, not all of them discredited, now excluded from power. The criticisms range from the Government's failure to legalise political parties and establish a constitutional commission to the venality of officials and the delays to new investment in roads, agriculture and mining.

Many of the expectations are overblown: even the holding of free elections is seen by most Western diplomats in Kinshasa as unrealistic in the present chaotic conditions. But there are two grievances which Mr Kabila must address quickly if he is to consolidate and legitimise his shaky hold on power. The first is the pervasive influence of the military; the second is the disappearance of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees and the obstruction of all United Nations attempts to reach or succour them.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General,

said yesterday that he had received Mr Kabila's assurance that a delayed UN investigation into alleged massacres could proceed. If true, that is an overdue and welcome step. But there must be scepticism about such assurances. A UN investigating team, headed by Roberto Garretón of Chile, arrived in Kinshasa two weeks ago, but met only new limitations. Mr Kabila's own Cabinet is divided, with different signals being sent to the UN almost daily.

The new President's failure to satisfy the international community over the refugees is linked to the provisional nature of his rule. Without the vast and illegally acquired wealth with which Mobutu both bribed and divided regional leaders, he has almost no way of enforcing his authority in a fissiparous country where physical communications have all but collapsed. The far-flung provinces are unwilling to submit to the discipline of a new Government that still relies on foreign-backed military forces.

There are some hopeful signs. The first is the determination of a better educated generation, especially in Kinshasa, not to allow any new strongman to crush their limited new freedoms. Secondly, Mr Kabila, with the continued support of pragmatic East African leaders who helped him to power, is ready to allow Western investors to restart abandoned mines and run-down businesses. Thirdly, Western governments are anxious to help Congo recover. The most practical immediate step they could take is to find, freeze and return to Congo the billions pillaged by the dead dictator and turned into real estate and bank accounts in the West.

Enforceable law to protect the Princes

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, The courts, acting on behalf of the Queen in her capacity as *parens patriae* (parent of the nation), have an unfettered discretion to make enforceable orders prohibiting any invasion of the privacy of a child who is a ward of court.

Is it not somewhat anomalous that they have no such power in relation to her own grandchildren unless, which would be unthinkable, they should also be made wards of court?

A one-line Act of Parliament could give them similar enforceable protection, something which the Press Complaints Commission can never achieve.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. DONALDSON,
House of Lords,
September 8.

Funeral address

From Mr Paul Wilson

Sir, I expected that I would have to endure a sad day, but I never expected that it would be made infinitely sadder by having to listen to my Queen being cruelly criticised from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey during the funeral service for the mother of her grandchildren.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL WILSON,
14 Residence le Clos,
91370 Verrières le Buisson, France.
paul.wilson@wanadoo.fr
September 8.

From Mr John R. Stoner

Sir, Isn't a father a blood relative; and the paternal grandparents and great grandmother; and the paternal uncles and aunts and cousins?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN STONER,
41 Manor Way,
Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey.

From Mr John Garnett Jones

Sir, I hope that Saturday's unprecedented demonstration of public sympathy and love will be a source of great pride to the Spencer family and a lasting assurance to them that in this great loss they are not alone.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. JONES,
49 Helming Drive, Danhurst,
Heathtown, Wolverhampton,
September 7.

Displays of grief

From Mr A. Murray

Sir, The debate about emotion at funerals may draw ballast from its antiquity.

In rural parts of medieval Italy it was normal for a widow to shriek in public, dishevel her hair and tear her clothes after her husband's death: so normal, in fact, that the husband's kinsmen might tear her hair and clothes for her if they thought her insufficiently moved.

Townsmen, would-be heirs to the Roman Stoics, strongly disapproved. They passed laws to stop such conduct among their citizens, who could receive a substantial fine "for showing excessive grief" in public. To meet the demands of mourning, town law developed a code to prescribe which parts of clothing should be worn black to mourn this or that dead relation: for a widow, all, and so on down to a simple black emblem. Our custom of wearing a black tie descends from this.

So longlasting a debate is most unlikely to end in our generation.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER MURRAY
(Tutor in Medieval History),
University College, Oxford,
September 7.

Staff college cost

From Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeeoch

Sir, Brigadier Peter Collins (letter, August 27) points to the proposed waste of "the best part of £500 million" on the proposed Joint Services Staff College.

Alternative schemes for utilising the extensive Army Staff College site at Camberley, or the historic naval buildings at Greenwich, were each to have cost under £15 million. By including junior command as well as staff training in the remit of the proposed tri-service college, the larger site of Camberley was given the advantage over Greenwich.

It was later found that it would cost over three times that sum to develop Camberley. A hurried decision was then taken to build a college near Swindon alongside the Royal Military College of Science.

Millions of pounds are going down the drain to house the staff colleges for the time being at Bracknell on land which could by now have been sold most profitably had the correct decision been taken to back the naval plan and utilise Greenwich as a single defence staff college.

Yours truly,
IAN MCGEOCH,
Hill House, High Street,
Leworth, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

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Devolution 'will lead to acrimony'

From Lord Beloff

Sir, As Scots face their referendum it is worth recalling the circumstances that brought about the union of the Parliaments. It was sought by the Scots in order to obtain entry into the rapidly growing English commercial empire from which they were excluded by protectionist legislation. It was accepted by the English as a political safeguard amid apprehensions of a disputed succession to the Crown.

Almost 300 years later much has changed. The operations of the economy mean that the interests of the two countries would be very hard to disentangle. The operations of the modern welfare state mean that the Scots are heavily subsidised by the English taxpayer; political bargains have given the Scots over-representation in the United Kingdom Parliament; the party structure means that when Labour is in power central government becomes dominated by Scots.

None of this means that Scots have not the right to decide to go back upon the Act of Union and seek their fortunes as an independent country; what it does mean is that "devolution" would call into question the original bargain and lead to the English demanding a reappraisal. The strategic dangers would not be the same; Louis XIV might have landed forces in Scotland; Jacques Santer luckily has none. But "devolution" would inevitably lead to a long period of acrimonious relations between the two nations as prolonged, if not as bloody, as that in the Middle Ages.

Parallels from federal or other forms of devolved government in continental Europe have no relevance; countries have their own histories. None are identical.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords,
September 6.

Caring legacy of Mother Teresa

From Dr Helen Watt

Sir, Once again, Mother Teresa is taken to task for her views on abortion and birth control ("Press casts doubts over legend of Mother Teresa", September 8).

Mother Teresa was, indeed, opposed to abortion — unsurprisingly, in view of her respect for unwanted human beings of all ages. She was not, however, opposed to each and every form of family planning.

On the contrary, natural family planning — success rates for which are now very high — was actively supported by Mother Teresa as an alternative both to contraception and to abortion.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN WATT
(Research fellow),
The Linacre Centre (for
health care ethics),
60 Grove End Road, NW8,
September 8.

Landmine loophole

From General Sir Hugh Beach

Sir, You report today that the Americans are belatedly expressing support for a treaty banning anti-personnel landmines, despite Washington's insistence that they should be allowed to continue using these mines to defend South Korea as long as they think necessary.

This obstacle bears out the worst fears of Fiona King of Save the Children and her co-signatories of the letter to you of September 3, pointing out that any such exception would create a fatal loophole through which any number of countries could follow.

On military grounds alone the American position is misguided. If any North Korean assault were accompanied by mechanised mine-clearing devices (rollers, rollers, ploughs or explosives) against which anti-personnel mines are of no effect.

If, in more difficult terrain, they launched a predominantly dismounted assault, then their vast numbers would allow them to use "human-wave" tactics (as the Chinese did in the same theatre in the 1950s) in which

From Mr N. S. Hinde

Sir, What sort of a Scottish parliament is Tony Blair really proposing if, even before the referendum on its existence has taken place, he can be issuing "assurances" that a Scottish parliament would not raise taxes within the next five years" (report, September 8)?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINDE,
7 The Terrace,
Chelmsford Road,
Felsted, Dunmow, Essex,
September 8.

From Mr George C. Kieffer

Sir, In 1766 Lord Camden said in the House of Lords that "taxation and representation are inseparable". The referendum on Thursday will allow the Scots to prove this with a vengeance. Have our politics become so twisted now that the cry goes out "No representation without taxation"?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE C. KIEFFER,
Tangle Trees,
120 Mountnessing Road,
Billericay, Essex,
September 8.

From Mr Drummond Hunter

Sir, The top priority in Scotland, at this moment, is to rectify what is really dishonest, namely, the hopelessly one-sided partnership between England and Scotland, which was established in 1707. The future of Scotland, after that has been effected, is an entirely separate question. For very many of us, there is little or no doubt that the Union can be saved (and indeed strengthened) only by changing and modernising its whole basis.

Yours etc,
DRUMMOND HUNTER,
17 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh,
September 7.

From Mr Brinsley Black

Sir, Earlier this year my wife and I were privileged to spend a morning at the orphanage in Calcutta, run by Mother Teresa, seeing nearly three hundred abandoned babies nourished and cared for by the dedicated nuns was an almost unbearably moving experience.

In the light of the sad death of Diana, Princess of Wales, it is relevant that we were moved even more by a well-to-do French lady sitting in the corner of one of the wards nursing two tiny babies. She told us that she came every year for two or three weeks to help. When I asked her if she had any qualifications, she replied: "Mon-sieur, you do not require qualifications to give a little love."

Yours faithfully,
BRINSLEY BLACK,
17 Lansdowne Walk, W11,
brinsleyblack@compuserve.com
September 7.

any casualties caused by mines would simply be disregarded.

If the Americans have in mind the close protection of their own positions they must call to mind the universal adage that to be of any effect minefields must be covered by observation and fire.

Normal human observation can now be vastly enhanced by a profusion of high-technology sensors, seismic, infra-red, acoustic, etc. Coupled with the fire of automatic weapons, mortars, artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems, already available in large numbers, the defenders gain nothing from laying anti-personnel mines which have, under international law, to be carefully fenced, marked, guarded and ultimately lifted.

In no campaign in history has the use of mines affected the course of any battle, hardly indeed a skirmish. They are as much a curse to those who lay them as to any potential enemy. Their day has long gone.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BEACH,
As from The Farmers Club,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,
September 8.

Forced sterilisation

From Dr J. H. Baron

Sir, Forced sterilisation (article, August 28) did not start only "after the First World War", was neither social democrat nor Nazi in origin, and did not even start in Europe; it was American. This medical eugenicist policy was first implemented in 1907, in Indiana, "to prevent procreation of confirmed criminals, idiots, imbeciles and rapists". By 1913 such sterilisation was legalised in 12 states. Between 1907 and the 1970s more than 60,000 people had been sterilised, especially in California.

These laws were conceived and carefully drafted by doctors, were upheld by the US Supreme Court in 1927 and in 1965 were still valid in 19 states.

These US laws were used as models for legislation in Alberta, Denmark and Switzerland (1928), Germany (1933), Norway and Sweden (1934) and Finland (1935).

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HUGH BARON,
21c Randolph Crescent, W9,
August 29.

Soft option?

From Mr T. Rogers

Sir, Now that the Army has adopted a softer and more caring approach to training recruits (report, August 28), it is to be hoped that any future enemy will have adopted similar practices.

Yours faithfully,
T. ROGERS,
Luton House, Prestons Road, E14.

True Brit

From Mr Anthony Golding

Sir, To fall behind to a superior opponent, to battle back gamely to the point where a victory is achievable, only to fall gallantly at the last, with gracious words for one's conqueror (reports, later editions, September 8) — can there be any further doubt that Greg Rusedski is indeed British?

Yours faithfully,
A. C. GOLDING,
25 Sallershot West,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire.
anthonygold@aol.com
September 8.

Animal welfare in modern farming

From Professor D. E. Beever and Mr M. J. Collis

Sir, All of us involved in the UK livestock industry must support the general message contained in Colin Tudge's article (Weekend, August 30), but serious debate must be supported with defensible information. The life of Friesian cows is not dire (farmers have every interest in preventing suffering), nor do most yield "2,000 gallons per year" going on 4,000. The UK average is just over 1,200 gallons.

We are not aware that geneticists are tweaking the growth hormone gene in the way he suggests: only through selection, better management and improved nutrition can even today's yields be achieved. The cow illustrated is not representative of the vast majority.

It is also not correct that only about 10 per cent of calves from the dairy herd are kept for replacements: the figure is closer to 40 per cent of all calves born. Finally, the "oversized" Belgian Blue bull you illustrated is not common on UK farms.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. BEEVER,
M. J. COLLIS,
University of Reading,
Department of Agriculture,
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AT,
September 5.

From Mr Colin Keron, MRCVS

Sir, Colin Tudge is right to draw attention to some of the animal welfare issues raised by current farming practices. The Farm Animal Welfare Council espouses freedom from hunger and thirst, environmental discomfort, pain, injury and disease, fear and distress and freedom to exhibit normal behaviour.

Enormous welfare benefits could be achieved without major structural changes to the industry and with minimal economic impact on the consumer.

The practical way forward is with schemes such as the RSPCA's "free-dom foods" campaign, which is carefully constructed on the basis of the above "five freedoms" and existing legislation. Full and transparent compliance is required of producers, and retailers may then apply the RSPCA logo to provide consumers concerned about farm animal welfare with an alternative to veganism.

Yours etc,
COLIN KERON,
25 Underwood, Kendal, Cumbria,
September 5.

Cover slips

From the Commodore of the Air Transport Auxiliary Association

Sir, The Reverend Warren Greatrex (letter, August 27) appeals, in the interests of "efficiency", for women in uniform to be allowed to wear trousers.

In the Second World War, Air Transport Auxiliary women ferry pilots were issued with a smart uniform jacket and tight skirt. The latter was awkward when climbing in and out of a variety of aircraft or wearing a parachute. Grudgingly, after much pleading, we were given navy blue boiler suits to wear when flying.

A notice was promptly posted on the HQ board saying "Women members will remove their trousers immediately after landing."

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BARNATO WALKER,
Commodore,
Air Transport Auxiliary Association,
Horne Grange, Horne, Surrey,
August 28.

Fate of the Battersbys

From Mrs Blake Parker

Sir, I applaud the sentiments of Mr A. G. Newton (letter, September 2) concerning the nightmare Battersby family of Coronation Street. I have watched and enjoyed the programme for many years, but I despair at the new "realism" the producer considers necessary at a time of family viewing.

Yours faithfully,
D. K. PARKER,
Whitton House,
Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire,
September 2.

From Mr Aubrey Leahy

Sir, I wonder how long the Battersbys would stay if the 97 per cent of viewers who think the family should go wrote to the Coronation Street sponsors and promised to buy other brands of chocolate until the fruit and nutcases were removed from the show?

Yours faithfully,
A. M. LEAHY,
14 College Road,
Epsom, Surrey,
September 2.

Serious numbers

From Mr K. Pomroy

Sir, Is there a message in the Video PlusCodes published for September 1 to simplify programming our video recorders (Directory, August 30)? Teletubbies (1791807)

Mastermind (17)
Coronation Street (3)

Yours sincerely,
K. POMROY,
13 Fomnaces, Plymouth, Devon,
September 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 8: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the National Birds of Prey Centre, Newent, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).
September 8: Queen Elizabeth The

Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), today visited the 1st Battalion at Fort George, Inverness-shire.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Major David McKicking were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Honorary Air Commodore, RAF Lyneham, will open the Help, Information, Volunteer Exchange (HIVE) at RAF Lyneham, Clippertonham, Wiltshire at 9.30 as Member. The Merchants House of Glasgow, will visit the house and sign the Golden Book, 7 West George Street, Glasgow, at 11.35, as Patron. Victim Support Scotland, will launch VS 2000 Campaign, James Mair Hall, Mitchell Theatre Complex, Grangeville Street, Glasgow, at 12.30, and as Patron. Northern Lighthouse Board, will visit three new lights nearing completion on the west coast of the Hebrides, between today and Thursday.



Michael Keaton, the actor, is 46 today

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Bathurst was christened Janine Elizabeth Sophie by the Rev Desmond Minty at St Peter's Church, Wrotham, on Sunday, August 31. The godparents are Mr Robert Bathurst, Mr Robert Holden, Mrs Charles Bathurst, and Mrs Angus Macmillan-Douglas.

Dinner

Cardiff Business Club
The Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, was present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The guests were the Right Hon William Hague, Leader of the Opposition, Mr Brian K. Thomas, CBE, Chairman, Cardiff Business Club, President.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Bligh, captain of HMS Bounty, Cornwall, 1754; Count Leo Tolstoy, writer, 1828; Polyna, Russia, 1828; Odis Redding, singer and songwriter, Dawson, Georgia, 1941.

DEATHS: William the Conqueror, reigned 1066-87, Rouen, 1087; Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, painter, Malmont, France, 1901; Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung), Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1949-59, Beijing, 1976.

Birthdays today

Mr R.B. Adams, former managing director, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 76; Miss Pauline Baynes, book illustrator, 75; Sir Tom Cowie, company chairman, 75; Raine Combes de Chambrun, 68; Professor A.T. Florence, Dean, London University School of Pharmacy, 57; Mr Eric Forth, MP, 53; Sir John Gorton, CH, former Prime Minister of Australia, 86; Mr Neil Holmes, six times world champion powerboat racer, 38; Mr Robin Hyman, publisher, 66; Sir John Macmillan, former MP, 72; Vincent Macdonald of Halifax, 39; Mr Steve O'Shaughnessy, cricketer, 36; the Rev Professor N.W. Porteus, theologian and linguist, 99; Mr James Sabben-Clark, Headmaster, Winchester College, 35; Mr Richard Sharpe, the Right Hon William Hague, Leader of the Opposition, Mr Brian K. Thomas, CBE, Chairman, Cardiff Business Club, President.

Appointments

Mr Colin Richard Fox to be a District Judge on the Northern Circuit.

School announcements

Birkdale School, Sheffield
The school year begins today, with 815 pupils in the school. David Wood is Head of School. Speech Day is on September 11, when the Guest of Honour will be the Rev Norman Drummond, Chairman of National Director, BBC Scotland. Performances of *Sweet Charity* will be given in the Healey Hall on December 3, 4 and 5, and the Senior School Carol Service in the Sheffield Cathedral on December 16 when the Preacher will be the Rev Will Sillemann, Vicar of Emmanuel, Chesham. Open Days are on October 18 (Senior School) and on October 18 (Preparatory School).

Brighton College
Michaelmas Term begins on September 9. Dr Anthony Seddon becomes Headmaster. Barry James, Hampden, is Head of School and Elizabeth Jones, Fenwick, and Andrew Nichol, Hampden, are Deputy Heads of School. An Open Morning will be held on Saturday, September 20, and an Open Evening for girls and boys interested in joining the Sixth Form in September 1998 will be held on Thursday, October 9. Open Day is on Saturday, October 25, when the Guest of Honour will be Sir Lindsay Bryson, Chairman of the School Council and Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex. The Sixth Form entrance examinations take place on Thursday, November 21. The Old Brightonian Association Dinner is on Saturday, December 6, and the Carol Service is on Saturday, December 13.

Charterhouse
The Oration Quarter begins today. Mr R.M.C. Gilliat takes up his appointment as Second Master and Dr A.J. Bennett as Under Master. Mr J.P. Freeman, Dr M. Loughlin and Mr N.T. Cooper become Housemasters of Gownways, Weeklies and Pagettes. Ten new members join Brooke Hall, including an Artist-in-Residence. Adrian Burrows is Head of School and Suzanne Chick is Head Girl. Henry Toulson is Captain of Football and Chris Jones is Captain of Lacrosse. There will be an Open Afternoon for 1998 entry girls on Saturday, September 20, at 2.15pm. A Gaudy will be held at the School on Saturday, October 11, for those who left in or before Oration Quarter 1995. The Sir Robert Birley Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr John Ray on Wednesday, October 15. Mr Terry Walte, CBE, will preach at the Remembrance Sunday Service on November 9. The Founders Day Service and Dinner will be held at the London Charterhouse on Wednesday, December 10, and the sermon will be preached by the Headmaster, Exeat is from Friday, October 24, to Sunday, November 2. The Quarter ends on Saturday, December 13.

Durham School
The Michaelmas Term began on September 3, when Mr Neil G.

Kern took up his appointment as Headmaster. Head of School is Christopher Hilton, KS, and Matthew Courtney, KS, Deputy. Speakers for the VI Form Lectures include the Right Hon Sir Leon Brittan and Miss Kate Adie. The Caffeine Sequentiary celebrations take place on Saturday, September 13. Term concludes on December 12 with the Carol Service in Durham Cathedral.

Eltham College
The Autumn term commenced at Eltham College on September 3 and will finish on December 12. There will be an Autumn Concert and Choral Concert on October 23 and November 20 respectively, and an Evening of European Drama on November 10. The play *Fair Maid of the West* will be performed on December 4 and 5. The Old Elthamian Winter Revue will be held on December 6, with the Carol Service on December 7 (Junior School December 9 and 10).

King Edward's School, Witley
The Treasurer and Governors of Birkdale Royal Hospital will admit new boarders to King Edward's School, Witley, at the Admissions School to be held at Guildhall today. Michaelmas Term begins on Wednesday, September 27, and the Sixth Form Entrance Examinations will be held on Thursday, November 21. The Old Elthamian Winter Revue will be held on December 6, with the Carol Service on December 7 (Junior School December 9 and 10).

Malvern Girls' College
The School Year begins today with Mrs Philippa M.C. Leggate, MA, MEd, PGCE, as the new Head of Malvern Girls' College. Mrs Leggate, BA, FCA, will retire as Chairman of the College Council in November and will be succeeded by Mr Rex Todd, QC, BCL, MA. The Head Girl is Caitlin Hughes and the Deputy Head Girl is Isobel Jones. The Autumn Term finishes on Friday, December 12. There are 440 pupils this year in the Senior School and 50 in the Preparatory School. Open Days for parents of prospective pupils will be held on October 18 (Senior Form) and November 8 (Middle School). The Charity Week fund-raising events will be on October 10-12. The Old Girls' Association will meet in Bristol on November 15. The Christmas Carol Service will be held in Malvern Priory at 11.30am on Friday, December 12.

Moira House, Eastbourne
Christmas Term begins today and ends on Wednesday, December 17. The following new staff join the

school this term: Miss Lara Robinson as Director of Drama, Miss Katherine Penn and Mrs Wendy Lambert as members of the Physical Education Department, Mrs Joanne Gough and Mrs Anna Bous as Junior School teachers, Katie Clark and Christina Carret continue as School Knights and Lisa Benson, Miruna Canagaratnam, Sarah-Jane Cole, Justine Cordingley, Eileen Howe, Harriet Phillips, Elizabeth Richardson and Belinda Samy as Standard Bearers. Open House is on Saturday, October 11, between 10.00am and 1pm. The Classics visit Rome between October 24-27. The Senior Drama Production *The House of Bernarda Alba* will be staged on the evenings of November 27 and 28. Moira House Carol Society will sing *Music for Christmas* on December 6 at All Saints' Chapel. The Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 13, and the Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 14, at All Saints' Church. The Skiing Expedition to Claviere takes place between January 4 and 11.

Northwood College
Northwood College opened for the Autumn term last week. Sabrina Mahtani is Head Girl and her Assistant is Laura Kern. Open Morning will be held on Saturday, September 27, and the Sixth Form Opportunities Evening on October 8. The College production of *Fiddler on the Roof* will take place on November 26, 27 and 28. The Guest of Honour at Speech Day on December 16 is Dame Fiona Caldicott, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

Priory's Field School
Term started on Wednesday, September 3. Lucy Cunningham is Head Girl and Sophie Crowe is Deputy. Term ends with the Carol Service in Charterhouse Chapel at 2.00pm on December 10, followed by a Christmas Fair at School.

Queen's College, London
Michaelmas Term begins today, and ends on Tuesday, December 16, after the annual Carol Service at 2pm in All Souls, Langham Place. Half Term is from October 21 to October 31 inclusive. Queen's School Girls' College, York, will be the first ever academic qualifications awarded to women. have been given to the following girls: Elvira Field, Xanthie Fuller, Veronica Haag, Georgina Jacobs, Seraphima Kennedy, Madeline McGowan, Nahmah, Katie Oliver, Sejal Patel, Eva Watkinson, Emma Wells and Rebecca Wilcox. The programme of events to celebrate the College Sequentiary commences this term, with performances of *Princelid* by Gilbert and Sullivan on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 5, 6, 7 and 8. On Tuesday November 18 at 6.45pm there will be a public lecture, given by John Grigg and chaired by Lord Jenkins on

Hillhead, OM, on 'F.D. Maurice - Reluctant Radical'. For full details and ticket application forms, please contact Janice Lawry on 0171 637 1261. We are still keen to hear from any old girls not yet in touch with the College.

Reed's School
Autumn Term begins today. The new Headmaster is Mr David W. Jarrett, MA. Thomas Worner is Captain of School and Sam Coleman Captain of Rugby Football. Open Mornings will be held on September 27 and November 15 and the Annual Foundation Appeal will be launched at Crofters' Bazaar on Thursday, October 16, under the Presidency of Mr Brian Winterford. Term ends on Sunday, December 14, after the School Carol Service in Guildford Cathedral.

St David's College, Llandudno
The Autumn term starts this week. Oliver Benyon is Head Boy and Richard Wright his Deputy. House Captains are Jamie Moorhead (Cader), Oliver Powell (Snowdon) and Matthew Frolish (Tryfan). Frolish has been appointed to the new post of Senior Student. Earl Cadogan, DL, will open the new 6th Form Boarding House on October 18. Old Boys' weekend is November 8 and 9 and term ends after the Carol Service on December 12.

St Dunstan's College
The Governors of The St Dunstan's Educational Foundation are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Ian Davies, MA, as Headmaster in succession to Mr David Moore, MA. Mr Davies is currently the Head of Lower School at Latymer Upper School. Mr Davies takes up his post at the start of the Lent Term 1998.

Thomas's London Day Schools
A Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Schools is to be held on Tuesday, September 30, 1997, at 2.30pm at Southwark Cathedral. This will be followed by a Reception from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at Thomas's Preparatory School, Clapham, Broomwood Road, London SW11 6JZ, for former parents, members of staff and old boys and girls. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Milly Larnier on 0171 978 4224 for details. Numbers for the Service are limited, but all are welcome at the Reception.

Woodbridge School
Term begins today, with Mr Nicholas Garrett taking up his appointment as Master of The Abbey and Mr Michael Street as Deputy Head of the Senior School. Speech Day and Open Day are on September 20 and 21 respectively, and the Hunter Trials are on November 16. The Junior Science exchange to Finland takes place in November and the Old Woodbridge Christmas Reunion is on Saturday, December 20.

Forthcoming marriages

The Revd N.I. Moir and Dr R.C. Love
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Sir Ernest and Lady Moir, of Kingston upon Thames, and Rosalind, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Love, of Langby, Monmouthshire.

Mr J.A.S. Alderson and Miss M.L. Whitlock
The engagement is announced between James Alexander Sebastian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Antony Alderson, of Clifton, Bristol, and Marcia Louise, younger daughter of Mr J. Iron Whitlock, of Eborac, Warwickshire, and of Mr David Whitlock, of Wootton, Northamptonshire.

Mr D. Brown and Mrs J. Bond
The marriage takes place today at Hassop Hall Hotel, Bakewell, Derbyshire, between Mr Derek Brown and Mrs Judy Bond, both of Youlgreave, Derbyshire.

Captain D.C. Gaul and Miss A.H.R. Pounder
The engagement is announced between Captain David Gaul, Royal Signals, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Gaul, of Pithchury, Scotland, and Helen, daughter of the late Mr Rafton Pounder and of Mrs Rafton Pounder, of Orlock, Clackmannan, Northern Ireland.

Mr P.R.F. Hipwell and Miss A.M. Aiken
The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr James Hipwell and Mrs Angela Hipwell, of Norwich, and Alice, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Aiken, of Harrow on the Hill.

Mr N.J.P. Potter and Miss A.K. MacIver
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Potter, of Silverstone, Northamptonshire, and Annabel, second daughter of Wing Commander Anne Mrs Duncun MacIver, of Great Chishill, Cambridgeshire.

Mr P. Heyworth and Miss S.A. Russell
The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr Patrick Heyworth and the late Mrs Unity Heyworth, of Kingston Magna, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Russell, of Bray, Berkshire.

Mr C.P. Jones and Mrs K.R. Moss
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Cedric Jones, of Kewbury, Surrey, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Clifford Moss, of Hindhead, Surrey.

Dr T.M. Skinner and Dr C.M.D. Don
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Neil Skinner, of Winchester, and Cecily, youngest daughter of Mr Gavin Don, of Forres, Morayshire, and the late Mrs Gavin Don.

Mr D. Williams and Miss A.E. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Dylan, son of the late Mr Evan (E.L.) Williams and of Mrs Williams, of Newtown, Powys, and Alex, youngest daughter of the late Mr Richard Roberts and of Mrs Roberts, of Puttenham, Surrey.

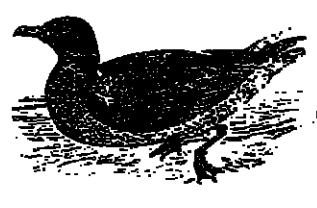
Marriages
Mr D.L. Gilbert and Miss L.D.H. Gumbel
The marriage took place on August 31, at St Peter and Paul Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, of Mr Damian Luke Gilbert to Miss Liane Gumbel. The honeymoon is being spent in Mexico.

Mr O.H. Williams and Miss L.C. Knight
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 6, at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, of Mr Oliver Williams, son of Mr Robert Williams and the late Mrs Christina Harrod, to Miss Lucinda Knight, daughter of Mr Bobby Knight and Mrs George Docker.

Nature notes

ARCTIC skuas are appearing round the coasts of Britain: they look like fierce brown gulls, and they chase a gull or a tern on the wing until it drops the fish it was carrying or disgorges the last fish it ate. Then the skua catches the food in the air.

Among other southbound migrants, parties of yellow gulls can be seen in grassy places along the shore, and a few late swallows are passing through. Among the resident birds, some wrens are singing and the drifling and the kingfisher can occasionally be heard over rivers. Large flocks of finches are descending on the ripe seeds of mugwort and charlock. Yellow horned poppy is still in flower on shingly beaches: if it is picked, a sticky yellow juice oozes



out of the stalk. On viper's bugloss the leaves have generally dried up, but there are still bright blue flowers set in a hairy calyx. In hedgerow ditches there are clusters of poisonous red berries on the cuckoo-pint, and tall goosegrass plants with hooked seeds that cling to clothes and dog fur. Sweet peas and Michaelmas daisies attract hordes of hoverflies, some looking like moths or bees. DJM

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

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WHITEHEAD - On September

Your list of players and a guide to the top scorers

Dream on... here are the players you would choose if you had unlimited resources and no restrictions



If an ITF team based on the August ratings could be formed regardless of price and club affiliation, it would be dominated, as one might expect, by players from Manchester United. In front of goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, the top points-scorer in ITF, three of the top four defenders are his Old Trafford teammates: Dennis Irwin, Gary Pallister and Henning Berg. The recent signing from Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea's Dan Petrescu is the exception to the rule, but is he truly a full-back? As teams switch formation back and forth from the trendy 3-5-2 to the tried and trusted 4-4-2, wing-backs like Petrescu and Gary Kelly of Leeds United find themselves playing in midfield. In midfield, it is a similar

story: Nicky Butt, Roy Keane and David Beckham outscored all their rivals in August. However, Benito Carbone, classed as a midfielder although he has been playing further forward for Sheffield Wednesday, would have come out ahead of all three had he not lost three points for his dismissal in the Blackburn-Sheffield Wednesday match, in which he scored both of his side's goals in a 2-2 defeat.

Only in the striking department have Manchester United lost out. Teddy Sheringham, with ten ITF points so far, is some way behind the leading forward, Chris Sutton (29), whose return to form has coincided with the resurgence of Blackburn Rovers, and Dennis Bergkamp of Arsenal (24), scorer of a hat-trick (worth a bonus of ten points) against Leicester City at Filbert Street.

Marco Negri, who has started the season in prolific form for Glasgow Rangers, and Dion Dublin of Coventry City, another hat-trick man on the season's opening day against Chelsea, have each scored 22 points and are hovering just outside the first team.

Two managers have equal claim to being in charge of the squad: Alex Ferguson of Manchester United, and Roy Hodgson of Blackburn Rovers. Hodgson is more than



TOP TEAM	
Peter Schmeichel	Man Utd
Dan Petrescu	Chelsea
Dennis Irwin	Man Utd
Henning Berg	Man Utd
Gary Pallister	Man Utd
Nicky Butt	Man Utd
Roy Keane	Man Utd
David Beckham	Man Utd
Benito Carbone	Sheffield Wed
Chris Sutton	Blackburn
Dennis Bergkamp	Arsenal
Roy Hodgson	Blackburn

entitled to the nod; after all, in the real world, his team sits on top of the FA Carling Premiership, having scored 15 goals to Manchester United's eight. A little blue-and-white balance to an otherwise somewhat red-heavy team might not go amiss.



Carbone, above left, and Butt are both high points-scorers in ITF so far this season

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

MOVED

51102 Ashley Ward Barnsley £2.0m
Transferred from Derby County

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

■ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

■ EACH TEAM that was entered by August 9 was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

■ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

■ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

■ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

■ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

■ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.

Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-3
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	18
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	5
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-4
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	4
10601	K Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	7	12
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10801	E de Goeij	Chelsea	3.00	0	9
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-8
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0
11101	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	15
11201	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	0	13
11301	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	3.00	0	-6
11401	I Westwood	Dunfermline	1.00	0	6
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.00	7	4
11601	G Rousset	Harts	1.50	0	11
11701	C Reid	Hibernian	1.00	0	0
11801	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-7
11901	N Martyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	1
12001	K Kellner	Leicester City	2.00	0	15
12101	D James	Liverpool	3.50	0	9
12201	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	39
12301	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12401	S Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	11
12501	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	3
12601	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0	-11
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0	0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	2
12901	I Walker	Tottenham	3.00	0	11
13001	L Milkosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	11
13101	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	2

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	2
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	8
20203	E Pettit	Arsenal	2.50	0	0
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	3
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	2
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	2
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	-1
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
20501	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	11
20502	P Valley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	10
20601	N Cox	Bolton	2.00	0	3
20602	R Elliott	Bolton	2.00	1	4
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	0	4
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	0
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	-1
20801	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	0	16
20802	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
20901	C Bebayaro	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
20902	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-7
20903	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
21001	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	-2
21002	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	5
21003	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	4
21101	K Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	5
21102	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	0
21103	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	0
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	0
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	0
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	4	3
21501	G Locke	Harts	1.50	0	0
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	-2
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	-1
21901	M Whitlow	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	0	8
22001	S I Bjornby	Liverpool	4.00	0	4
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0	19
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	14
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	11
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	6
22201	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
22202	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	1.50	0	10
22301	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	6
22302	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	0
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	0	1
22402	S Stenassas	Rangers	2.50	0	-10
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-7
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	0
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22702	F Benelli	Southampton	0.75	0	0
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	2.00	0	0
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham	1.00	0	-3
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham	3.00	0	0
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-3
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-3
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-3

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-6
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	7
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	-1
30302	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	3.50	0	0
30401	A de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	0
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	5
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	8
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	1
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	4	7
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	4	7
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0	0
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	0
30801	F Labouff	Chelsea	3.00	0	1
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	0
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	8
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-8
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	3
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	3
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	1
31101	I Stimson	Derby County	2.50	0	0
31102	J Laurson	Derby County	1.50	0	3
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	3.00	0	0
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	1
31401	S Bille	Everton	3.00	4	1
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	1	-1
31501	D Weir	Harts	2.00	0	5
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	1.50	0	4
31602	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	0
31802	G Haile	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	-1
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	-2
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0	-1
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	0	14
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	0	7
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	0	11
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	4
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1
32003	B T Kvame	Liverpool	3.00	0	4
32004	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	16
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	24
32301	P Albart	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	5
32302	D Pascoe	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	0
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	0
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	6
32401	S Porri	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	1
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0	-2
32502	P Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0	-6
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0	0
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	0
32801	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	3
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham	3.00	0	1
32803	J Scales	Tottenham	2.50	0	8
32804	R Vega	Tottenham	2.00	0	-4
32805	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.00	0	9
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	2
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	1
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	2
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	3.00	0	3
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	1
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	0	12
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	8
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	0	1
40204	R Parfitt	Arsenal	2.50	0	8
40301	D Platt	Aston Villa	1.50	0	2
40302	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	0	7
40401	I Taylor	Barnsley	2.50	0	6
40402	N Redfern	Barnsley	3.00	0	14
40403	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	0	8
40404	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	0
40501	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0	6
40502	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	12
40503	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	7
40504	G Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
40601	G Blackburn	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	9
40801	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	2	6
40802	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	2	6
40803	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	2	6
40804	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40605	J Ploock	Boiton Wanderers	2.00	2	6
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	4
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	1
42503	R Bliniker	Celtic	1.50	0	2
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	0	4
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	10
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	12
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	2.00	0	11
40901	G McAlister	Coventry City	2.50	0	3
40902	T E Softveth	Coventry City	1.50	0	5
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	6
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	7
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	9
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	9
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	0
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0	5
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	0
41104	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	0	4
41105	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	5
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	9
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	0	5
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	0	7
41302	D Fleming	Dunfermline	1.50	0	1
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.2	0	0
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	3
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	2	3
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	0	9
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	1
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	7
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	5
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	3
41802	A I Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	3
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	1.80	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0	7
41903	M Izzeet	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	9
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	9
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	0	7
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	0	16
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	14
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	18
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	17
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	0
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	0
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0	5
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0	3
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	0
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	0
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	0	2
42402	P Gascolgne	Rangers	6.00	0	2
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42404	J Alberty	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42501	B Carbone	Sheffiled Wed	3.00	0	15
42502	M Pembbridge	Sheffiled Wed	2.50	0	2
42504	G Hyde	Sheffiled Wed	1.00	0	4
42701	J Magilton	Southampton	1.50	0	6
42702	R Slade	Southampton	0.75	0	2
42703	N Maddison	Southampton	0.75	0	10
43601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	4
43801	A Sinton	Tottenham	3.00	0	5
43802	D Anderton	Tottenham	3.00	0	0
43803	R Fox	Tottenham	2.00	0	6
43804	D Howells	Tottenham	2.00	0	8
43805	D Ginoia	Tottenham	2.50	0	3
43901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	13
43902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	7
43903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	5
43904	M Hughes	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	3
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	4
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	0	3
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1997

2W

Interest rate rises put brake on spending

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH STREET sales came off the boil in August as interest rate rises began to bite and windfall spending slowed.

The British Retail Consortium (BRC) monthly sales monitor shows sales growth slumping to a five-month low of 3.9 per cent, compared with 5.2 per cent in July.

But the latest industrial production figures showed the struggling manufacturing sector performing surprisingly strongly, although factory gate prices remain subdued. Manufacturing output rose by 0.4 per cent on the previous month, taking the annual rate of growth to 1.6 per cent around twice the expected rate.

Economists said that the latest raft of data was unlikely to alter greatly the thinking of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, which meets tomorrow and on Thursday. The committee has hinted that it will leave interest rates unchanged this month and further evidence of a slowdown in consumer spending would imply that interest rates have peaked.

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the BRC, said: "The Bank was right to announce a pause in its policy of raising interest rates. Indeed, interest rates have probably risen as high as they need to head off the threat of a sustained pick-up in inflation."

The pound endured a roller-coaster ride on the foreign exchanges as the unexpected strength of the production figures briefly sent sterling higher before traders began to switch into the mark after renewed evidence of a revival in the German economy. The pound slumped to a three-month low of DM2.8479 before recovering to close only marginally down at DM2.8546, while the trade-weighted index finished just 0.1 lower at 100.1.

The BRC said that the slowdown in the annual rate of like-for-like sales growth reflected higher mortgage costs, holiday spending overseas and a marked reduction in windfall associated spending.

Sales of electrical goods, which rose sharply in June and July, fell back, while

clothing sales were also more patchy. London stores suffered as the strong pound made shopping less attractive to foreign visitors.

But the hot summer weather provided a boost to sales of fans and refrigeration products as well as soft drinks, salads and delicatessen foods.

Economists played down the importance of the manufacturing output data, which in part reflected back revisions to the data as well as the overall strength of the economy in early summer. Second-quarter manufacturing output was revised up by a total of 0.6 percentage points, resulting in output showing a 0.3 per cent rise, compared with a previously estimated 0.3 per cent fall.

Overall industrial production also rose by a stronger than expected 0.6 per cent and at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent thanks to a boost from increased gas extraction.

Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said that the revisions would add around 0.1 per cent to second-quarter GDP figures and indicated that "the strength of domestic demand is still fully offsetting any weakness in exports". But Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC, added: "The manufacturing recovery is not out of danger yet. With industry still fragile these numbers do little to undermine the MPC's implied decision to leave interest rates unchanged for the time being."

The producer prices data is also unlikely to cause alarm at the Bank, with economists concluding that there are few signs of any pipeline inflationary pressures despite the recent slide in the pound.

Factory gate prices increased 0.1 per cent in August, although the annual rate of change was unchanged at 1.4 per cent. Input prices also nudged up by a monthly rate of 0.6 per cent, although the index is still 7.9 per cent lower than this time last year. Economists blamed the small rise in raw material prices on an increase in the price of crude oil, metals and imported foods.

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Confusion halts share deals in British Energy

By JON ASHWORTH AND MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH ENERGY, the privatised nuclear power generator, is expected to make a formal complaint to the Stock Exchange after trading in its shares was suspended for more than two hours yesterday.

Shares in the company appeared to leap 44 per cent, to 301p, when trading opened, catching brokers and fund managers off-guard. In fact, the jump was caused by market-makers factoring in the second 98p instalment on the shares, due to be paid by September 16. However, some market-makers continued to quote the shares as partly paid yesterday, quoting a spread of 207p to 210p, against the 300p-to-305p fully-paid level. The shares were due to be quoted on a fully-paid basis from yesterday, but with a deferred settlement date.

The Stock Exchange fed that supplies prices were taken down at 8.44am, soon after trading began, but at least seven trades went through at the wrong price.

One broker told *The Times*: "I sold a parcel of shares at the 295p level and no one has given me instructions, so far, to unwind the bargain. It was only later I discovered the real price should have been nearer 309p."

The service resumed at

11am, but information services such as Topic were unable to provide a generally available quote for the rest of the day. The Stock Exchange insisted that any trades booked at the wrong price would be rebuked at the correct price.

Similar problems beset Railtrack a week before its second payment became due earlier this year.

City sources blamed the confusion on the Stock Exchange, saying it had failed to allow for the shift in status of British Energy shares. The Stock Exchange denied any culpability, saying that it had sent out a two-page stock situation notice on July 31, and a reminder on August 1. A spokesman said: "It was an unfortunate situation, but it's been resolved fairly quickly. It is very unusual."

British Energy had no comment, but is understood to be dismayed about the disruption to trading, and intends to register its anger in a letter to the Exchange. The company, formed out of a merger of Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, came to the stock market last summer. Its founding chief executive, Robert Hawley, bowed out in June with an estimated £450,000 payoff.

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Highland gains: Ian Robinson, left, chief executive of ScottishPower, and Richard Grasso, chairman of New York Stock Exchange, are accompanied by a piper as shares in the multi-utility go live on Wall Street yesterday. It becomes the first Scottish company with an American listing. The share price in London responded with a 7½p rise to 469p

Guinness scandal report 'flawed'

By JON ASHWORTH

THE official report into the 1986 Guinness share support scandal is fundamentally flawed and leaves questions unanswered, sources close to the inquiry said yesterday.

The report, now with the Department of Trade and Industry, focuses on key players such as Ernest Saunders and Gerald Ronson, but ignores thousands of transactions that accompanied the £2.7 billion takeover battle for Distillers. In particular, it fails to address allegations of orchestrated selling of Guinness shares on behalf of Argyle, the drinks group, which mounted an unsuccessful counter-bid for Distillers.

The Guinness report is expected to be published next month. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is thought to be intent on seeing that it is published, despite reported high-level opposition.

The government-appointed inspectors, David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt, completed an interim report some years ago. Sources say it was flawed because it focused simply on a narrow band of transactions in Guinness shares. There is nothing to indicate that the inspectors subsequently widened their brief.

The inspectors neglected to interview members of the Takeover Panel, and did not investigate allegations of indemnities offered to Argyle supporters. Unnamed City figures and institutions are said to have collaborated in mass selling of Guinness shares on a huge scale. The report is thought to criticise Ephraim Margulies, the former sugar baron who died last month. Companies linked to Mr Margulies received secret payments but he was not charged.

Commentary, page 27

PIA and Bank freeze adviser

IN A co-ordinated regulatory move, the Bank of England and the Personal Investment Authority have pounced on two firms run by a Gloucester financial adviser suspected of carrying out unlicensed deposit-taking (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The Bank has obtained an injunction against Peter John Naylor, who trades as Naylor Financial Services and Naylor Investment Services, preventing him from marketing or conducting a deposit-taking business or disposing of his assets.

Up to a dozen clients are believed to have left several hundred thousands of pounds with Mr Naylor, 53.

The Bank began an investigation two months ago after an approach from the PIA. The PIA, meanwhile, has suspended the business of Naylor Investment Services, of which Mr Naylor is sole principal.

Lenders urged to ensure safety net

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Government has urged mortgage lenders to take responsibility for providing an insurance safety net to catch borrowers who fall on hard times.

Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, yesterday said state provision was never meant to provide a comprehensive safety net. She said: "It must be for lenders and insurers to take the lead in ensuring homebuyers have better protection. It is essential that lenders ensure that borrowers address the question of how they would meet mortgage payments if they fell on hard times. Lenders should strongly encourage borrowers to take out insurance where they need and would benefit from it. It is in their interest to do so. Repossession is expensive, gets the industry a bad name and benefits no one."

Up to 2.5 million homeowners risk repossession because they are not insured against unemployment, accident or sickness, according to a recent report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Only three in ten homebuyers arrange cover so their mortgage can be paid when they are unable to afford the premiums. This is in spite of borrowers getting no state support for the first nine months.

Research shows that most people simply do not know mortgage payment premium insurance (MPPI) exists or, if they do, consider it a waste of money. Although the cost of MPPI has come down by a third since 1995 it remains one of the most expensive forms of insurance. It can cost £25 per month to insure £100 worth of mortgage payment.

A report commissioned by the Council of Mortgage Lenders called on the Government to make MPPI compulsory for borrowers seeking mortgage interest tax relief.

CBI seeks union rethink on European policy

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR



Turner risks TUC anger

THE Confederation of British Industry is to call for a complete overhaul of European social policy in an attempt to limit fresh proposals from Brussels on employment law.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, will tomorrow tell the TUC in Brighton that the challenge facing Britain over Europe is to develop an approach to employment and the labour market that does not result in high unemployment.

Mr Turner's speech, which is likely to provoke walkouts from some left-wing union leaders, will call for a

change of direction in European social policy. He will say that since 1988 UK unions have broadly endorsed new social legislation from Europe without considering whether it is fully applicable to Britain because they judged that a Conservative Government Brussels was likely to be the only source of such new legal moves.

But with the election of a Labour Government it is now time to reconsider the suitability of legislation put forward by Brussels.

Mr Turner will run the risk of irritating union leaders in his insis-

tence that his call for a fundamental reappraisal of European social policy is in line with the TUC's own thinking.

But he will praise trade unions in the UK for going further than their European counterparts in embracing labour market flexibility, citing their full endorsement of the European-level agreement between employers and employees on part-time working, in contrast with the reservations of German trade unions. Although the main focus of his much-awaited speech to the TUC will be on European social policy, Mr Turner is also expected to acknowl-

edge publicly the limited likelihood of the CBI and the TUC reaching agreement on the thorny issue of union recognition.

He will make clear the opposition of business to moves by Labour in office on recognition, and the minimum wage, but will commit the CBI to working with the Government to limit what they see as the damage to industry of such proposals.

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THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS AT BRIGHTON

Extension of rights sought for employees

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNION leaders yesterday demanded an extension of key employment rights to protect employees from the day they start work.

Other extensions to union powers sought by the TUC include recognition of unions where 50 per cent plus one of employees in a workplace demand it and rights at work to apply to all staff regardless of the number of hours worked or form of contract.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, and Bill Morris, leader of the T&G, led the call for an end to the requirement that employees should have worked for two years before they are able to make a claim for unfair dismissal or be entitled to redundancy payments. The qualification period will be an important part of the Govern-

ment's White Paper on fairness at work to be published next year.

At present employees have a number of rights from the first day of employment, such as protection from discrimination on the grounds of race or gender. But the lack of rights over dismissal claims or severance pay until employees have been on the staff for two years has led to many sackings just before the qualifying period, the TUC claims.

Mr Edmonds said: "To dismiss people unfairly is just as wrong whether it happens after two days or after two months or after two years."

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said on the eve of the Congress that he wanted to wait to see what the White Paper proposed before setting out qualification periods. But both Mr Edmonds and Mr Morris were yesterday adamant that there should be no compromise between the two-year requirement and the demand for day-one rights. The TUC's official request to the Government on qualification for rights seeks to embrace both positions. It calls for "all rights at work [to] apply to all employees regardless of hours worked, length of service or the form of contracts."

In a strong attack on the Government Mr Edmonds said: "Don't politicians understand that nowadays some employers are so bloody-minded that if people get employment rights after one year, we would see the introduction of 11-month contracts? And if the waiting period goes down to six months, we would find people employed on contracts cut down to 25 weeks."

Mr Morris said: "Access to justice should not depend on the length of your service or the numbers you work with. An injustice is an injustice whether it's done on day one or day 1,001." The leader of the T&G urged the extension of employment rights to all workers, including contract and temporary staff, seasonal employees and casual workers.

Employment rights such as claims to unfair dismissal from the first day of work are rare. According to Industrial Relations Services, the research group, French workers must have been employed for two years and work in a company of at least 11 employees to make a claim for unfair dismissal. German workers must be on the staff for six months in a company employing at least six people.

To qualify for redundancy payments in France, staff must be employed for two years. In Germany there is no minimum-service qualification for severance payments.

THOUGHTS OF THE DAY

"When I hear the Labour Government using Tory phrases, I shiver a little."

— John Edmonds, the general secretary of the GMB, on Labour's plans to maintain a flexible labour market.

"Many young workers have never even heard of trade unions, let alone been asked to join one."

— Tony Burke, the deputy general secretary of the GPMU and head of the TUC's new unionism task force.

"Fear and insecurity have been replaced by hope and a boost for the morale of ordinary people. Even West Ham United are playing well."

— Tony Dubbins, the President of the TUC, on the election of the Labour Government.

"Don't dream too much, face reality."

— John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, to a call from CWU representative Allan Eldred for a more radical agenda.

"You need the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon and a bladder able to withstand three-and-a-quarter hours without relief, morning and afternoon."

— Jimmy Knapp, the leader of the RMT, on the requirements for a Congress president.



John Monks urges the TUC to join in dialogue with the Government and business on raising the UK's competitiveness

Monks tells unions to 'seize the moment' and modernise

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN MONKS, TUC General Secretary, urged Britain's unions yesterday to "seize the moment" of Labour's rise to power and modernise as part of a movement by the Government, employers and unions towards a new industrial partnership.

In his keynote speech at the opening of the TUC's annual conference in Brighton Mr Monks said unions now stood ready to join a new national dialogue with the Government and business on how to improve the UK's competitiveness and how to make Europe

work best for Britain. He urged Tony Blair, who will address the TUC conference today, to help to push Britain towards a new industrial deal, drawing on his success in modernising the Labour Party: "Help to generate the momentum for the new settlement. If anyone in the UK knows the potential of breaking from past traditions and grasping the new, you do."

He called on Adair Turner, the CBI Director-General, who will speak to the conference tomorrow, to accept that bad employers undermined

good ones: "Recognise that competitiveness comes from skilled and loyal staff enjoying both good conditions and the trust of their employers."

But he said the unions had to change too — to find for themselves a new and constructive place in Mr Blair's new Britain. "Not just what we'd like to get, but where we can play a part. Not just what we want to see — but what we plan to do. And not just what we want others to give — but how we ourselves can contribute."

Mr Monks welcomed what the new Government had already achieved, including signing the EU social chapter, establishing the Low Pay Commission to recommend a national minimum wage, promising new laws to give unions legal recognition rights and ending the ban on unions at GCHQ.

But he emphasised the clear differences between the unions and a Labour government, with the Government pledged to govern in the interest of the whole country. He rejected those eager to seize on splits and divisions between the unions and Labour: "If the TUC and the Government were always in agreement, it would only prove that neither of us was doing our job properly."

But while he supported close involvement by employers in a new national dialogue, he sharply criticised some forms of work flexibility embraced by certain companies. Companies needed to be flexible. But the hire and fire culture was not flexibility, just exploitation.

He said: "Employers might want flexible workers. But people at work today need flexible employers. Not the hire and fire, take it or leave it brigade, but the ones who see that choices must be a two-way street, worked out together."

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Leading article, page 19

Drive to revive membership

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC set out an action plan yesterday to reverse its declining membership. Tony Dubbins, the President, said the New Unionism recruitment drive was "about our relevance, our credibility and our future."

The union movement will launch a twin-track campaign to build membership where unions are already active and to spark interest in those areas where jobs are growing but union membership is non-existent. The fight for new members, which the TUC said needs "urgent action", will be

backed by an academy to teach union organisation skills. The academy, into which the TUC is pumping £1 million, will train young union members to be organisers and will launch in the new year.

Trade union membership has fallen from half of the workforce in 1979 to just under a third now. Many workers in new industries ignore unions largely because there is no tradition and they are not approached to join. According to TUC research, five million workers want to join a union but

have not done so because there is no presence at their workplace. The TUC now has 6.9 million members.

Tony Burke, deputy general secretary of the Graphical Paper and Media Union and head of the New Unionism Task Group, said that young workers would be a key recruitment target. "In the UK only one in five under-25-year-olds is a union member... According to our own report, *Testament of Youth*, many young workers have never even heard of trade unions. Let alone been asked to join one."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Merrill Lynch soars to record \$1.55bn

MERRILL LYNCH Europe, the investment bank based in London, more than doubled its half-year pre-tax profits, to £158 million, helping the earnings of its parent, Merrill Lynch, to reach a record \$1.55 billion (£980 million). It put the growth down to a combination of the integration of Smith New Court, the broker, and the strength of the European capital markets.

Christopher Reeve, chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe, said that the group was able to marry Smith's UK equity business to the old Merrill operations, which were strong in continental Europe and are the leading issuer of debt securities in the world. He added: "As a result of the acquisition of Smith we have been able to attract a number of high-quality corporate financiers and this has given us a much more rounded business." The London operation has also been bolstered by an injection of £188 million of extra capital from its US parent during the first half of the year.

Pound hits Haggas

JOHN HAGGAS, the spinner of wool and synthetic yarn, said sterling's strength had caused the UK market to be flooded with cheap imports and was eroding the company's competitive edge overseas. Haggas, which normally generates 60 per cent of its sales from overseas, said that it was accepting lower margins to retain existing customers in the hope that sterling would subside. Pre-tax profits fell to £2.22 million (£2.7 million) in the year to June 30. Earnings per share fell to 7p (8.4p). A 3p final dividend, due on November 28, makes 4.5p (same).

Biomedix losses deepen

KS BIOMEDIX, the biotech company specialising in developing antibodies, says that it intends to sell the rights to its arthritis drugs next summer, if they pass the half-way Phase II tests. The company is working on what it hopes will be the first medicine to reverse the advance of arthritis, but it says that it cannot afford the costs of further tests. Its pre-tax losses deepened to an expected £847,000 (£218,000) in the year to May 31, leaving it with £2.9 million in the bank, which it expects to last for another three years. The shares held at 110p.

Brammer lifts payout

BRAMMER, the European industrial services group, yesterday reported a 10 per cent rise, from £123 million to £14 million, in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, on turnover of £112 million, up 8.9 per cent from £103 million. Earnings per share were 21p, up 13.5 per cent from 18.5p. An interim dividend of 5.6p (5.25p) will be paid on November 11. The company said that its profits had been hit by the strength of sterling and the subdued UK market, but that its performance in mainland Europe was improving.

Dewhirst 28% ahead

DEWHIRST, the Marks & Spencer clothing supplier, lifted its pre-tax profits 28 per cent, from £11 million to £14 million, in the 26 weeks to July 18, on sales of £177 million, up 20 per cent from £147 million. Earnings per share were 7.41p, up 31 per cent from 5.66p. An interim dividend of 1.4p (1.15p) will be paid on November 7. The company said that both its clothing division and its toiletries division had performed well. The board expects further progress in the second half.

AEA buys green firm

AEA Technology, the science and engineering group, is acquiring ERG Environmental Resource Group from Southern Water for a profit-related sum of up to £6 million, with an initial payment of £4 million. ERG, based in West Sussex, made operating profits of £1.1 million on sales of £27.1 million in the year to March 31. Its clients include British Steel, Ford, Pirelli and Shorts and it was involved in the clean-up of the Sea Empress oil spill in Wales last year.

Dowding & Mills rises

DOWDING & MILLS, the electrical and mechanical services group, reported strong trading in its main markets in the opening weeks of the financial year, in spite of the strength of sterling. The company announced pre-tax profits of £14.37 (£12.26 million) for the year to June 30. Earnings were 5.89p a share, up from 4.87p. The total dividend is increased 7.8 per cent to 3.19p a share, with a 2.06p final.

Debt collector falters

INTRUM JUSTITIA, the international debt collection business, is holding the interim dividend at 1.3p a share after suffering a fall in pre-tax profits to £5.5 million from £8.2 million in the six months to June 30. The company said that it had been adversely affected by the strength of the pound and by a deterioration in trading, particularly in France, Germany and Britain. Earnings fell to 4p a share from 5.6p.

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.27	2.09	189.00
Austria Sch	21.13	19.47	0.865
Belgium Fr	62.24	57.28	3.413
Canada \$	2.315	2.127	2.84
Cyprus Cyp	0.888	0.816	1.43
Denmark Kr	11.48	10.59	302.53
Finland Mk	9.12	8.37	8.14
France Fr	10.09	9.31	252.79
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78	13.09
Greece Dr	475	436	2.50
Hong Kong \$	13.09	11.89	277.05
Ireland Ir	1.29	1.03	1.889
Israel Shk	5.89	5.24	1.546
Italy Lira	2061	2724	258727

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

CompuServe sold in \$1.2bn deal

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE, the American long-distance phone company, has acquired CompuServe Corporation, the flagging "online" company, for \$1.2 billion (about £759 million).

As part of the agreement Worldcom will hand over CompuServe's 2.6 million subscribers worldwide to America Online (AOL) in exchange for AOL's network services subsidiary, ANS Communications. Worldcom will also pay \$175 million in cash to AOL.

The deal comes after Worldcom's purchase of H&R Block's 80 per cent stake in CompuServe. While handing subscribers over to AOL, Worldcom will keep CompuServe's high-speed tele-

communications lines and Internet "gateways", enabling the former to enhance the size and reach of Unet Technologies, its Internet services unit.

AOL, whose president is Steve Case, has been promised access to an additional 100,000 Unet modem users that would help to prevent network "traffic jams" as AOL expands. This should ensure that AOL is not embarrassed again as it was earlier this year, when, shortly after its introduction of flat-rate monthly pricing, it was forced to code credits to enraged customers unable to connect to the dial-up service.

By catching CompuServe's subscribers in its corporate driftnet, AOL will surge still

further ahead of its rivals in major online services. According to figures published in June by *Electronic Information Report*, a trade newsletter, AOL already has 8.6 million subscribers. Its nearest rival, the Microsoft Network, is now dwarfed, with a mere 2.3 million.

There is also a geographical dimension to AOL's consolidation. CompuServe, traditionally strong in Europe, has 850,000 European subscribers, which would now make AOL the largest online service in Europe. AOL Europe, a joint venture with Bertelsmann, the German publishing company, already has 650,000 subscribers.



Steve Case hopes to prevent further network "traffic jams"

French sell Télécom stake

THE French Government yesterday announced the sale of a 30 per cent stake in France Télécom, the state-owned telecommunications company (Adam Sage writes).

The sale is expected to raise up to Fr45 billion (about £4.7 billion), making it one of the biggest privatisations held in France. A 10 per cent stake in the firm will be offered to Deutsche Telekom, with a further 3 to 4 per cent made available to employees. The remaining stake will be offered to the public and to institutional investors. The French and German companies

are seeking to forge a close alliance before the liberalisation of the European telecommunications market next year.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, said the sale would be launched this month, with France Télécom to be floated on the Paris Stock Exchange by the end of next month.

The Government's decision will be welcomed by a French business community worried that France might fall behind other European countries, most of whom have already begun liberalising their telecommunications markets.

Park Food names chief

PARK FOOD GROUP, the hamper supplier and marketing services company, yesterday announced that Alastair Kerr, former chief executive of Virgin Retail Europe, has joined it as chief executive (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The move comes after a decision to split the roles of chairman and managing director held by Peter Johnson, owner of 70 per cent of the company.

There has been pressure from institutional shareholders for the appointment of an outside executive to address the company's problems.

Profits have fallen sharply to £9.6 million, from £137 million two years ago, and the shares, up 1p at 54p yesterday, have fallen from a high of 140p in 1995.

Mr Johnson, who also chairs Everton Football Club and who stepped down as chairman of Nightingale, the parcels group, in June, will remain executive chairman of Park Food. Mr Kerr said he had been assured that he would be able to run the company as a full chief executive, in spite of Mr Johnson's controlling stake. He is to present a strategic review to the board.

Acquisitions give a boost to Polypipe

BY ADAM JONES

POLYPIPE, the plastic building materials manufacturer, increased annual profits 15.1 per cent after a flurry of small acquisitions in the year.

The group also announced yesterday that Mike Hardy, its production director, has been made managing director. Pre-tax profits for the year to June 30 stood at £32.8 million on turnover of £231.7 million. Sales of pipes and fittings, boosted by the purchase of Norflex and B&H, rose from £125.8 million to £136.6 million.

Sales of bathroom and kitchen accessories rose from £20.5 million to £30.9 million. Polypipe bought Midland Stom last October, adding Celnac, the toilet seat maker, in May 1997. Other plastic products, including window products, accounted for £64.2 million in sales (£62.4 million). The market for windows was subdued in the first few months before picking up again in May. Mr Hardy blamed a fall in local authority spending and pre-election uncertainty for the lull.

A final dividend of 2.41p (2.14p), due on November 26, makes 3.33p (2.97p).

Fairey puts expansion on hold

BIRN

FAIREY, the defence electronics group, has put its expansion plans on hold until the company's financial position improves.

The company, which is a subsidiary of the British Aerospace group, has been hit by a fall in orders from the Ministry of Defence.

The company's sales fell by 10 per cent in the first half of the year, and its losses widened to £1.1 million from £0.8 million.

The company's chairman, Sir John Fairclough, said that the company was "in a difficult position" and that it was "not clear when the situation will improve."

The company's main products are defence electronics, including radar systems and missile guidance systems.

The company's sales are heavily dependent on the Ministry of Defence, and it is expected that the company's financial position will improve as orders from the MoD increase.

The company's shares fell by 10p to 110p on the news.

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Stock Exchange is marred



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

What is the function of the Stock Exchange? To provide a trading floor? Not for at least a decade. To regulate the financial markets? No, that is the role of the SIB, the Bank of England and the self-regulatory organisations and will soon be the job of the super-SIB. So does the exchange catch insider traders? Well, it investigates them and then passes the file on to the Department of Trade and Industry to prosecute. And then the DTI appears to decide it is impossible to prosecute the case. Unfortunately the DTI investigators have to prove a *mens rea*, in that the person dealing not only was in possession of inside information but also dealt in the shares because he or she had the inside information. And you can count on the fingers of a mitten how often these cases can be tried successfully in any given year.

So this leaves the other function of the Stock Exchange — to maintain an orderly market. Well, yesterday it failed to do that in British Energy. The final instalment to be paid on the nuclear electricity company's shares is due next Monday and, as has happened with all privatisations, the market adjusted the price to have dual quotes a week before the event. Only the exchange failed to take account of this, so instead of there being two pages of market-making quotes, there was only one. The result — confusion,

mispricing and anger. The reaction of the exchange to suspend British Energy shares and obliterate all trace of trading for most of yesterday morning. It is not as if the exchange was not warned. A similar problem occurred when the final payment was due on Railtrack shares earlier this year.

British Energy is expected to make a formal complaint about the situation tomorrow. This could open up a can of worms, namely whether the exchange needs to exist in the form that it does. For 200 years the London Stock Exchange has been a focus of trading activity in a financial centre that is the envy of the world. Yesterday's figures from Merrill Lynch Europe, after a few weeks on from those of SBC Warburg, show that London-based financial companies are the equal of anybody — even if they are rarely British owned. But electronic markets have shown that you do not need a trading floor for most trading, and the interlinking of many markets often makes it irrelevant whether a share is traded in London, New York or Timbuktu. Regulators have realised that much trading between large companies is on a

Softly, softly for the economy

Fears that the enduring strength of sterling would spell disaster for the manufacturing sector have dominated the economic debate for most of this year. The contrast between the booming high street and weak manufacturing output has revived memories of the "dual economy" that bedevilled Brit-

ain's economic performance throughout the 1980s. Pessimists have even begun muttering that the combination of rising interest rates and strong sterling could tip the whole economy into recession next year.

But the manufacturing sector has so far proved more resilient than the doomsday merchants and even many industrialists have expected. Yesterday's manufacturing output figures again surprised on the upside, with manufacturing output rising at a monthly rate of 0.4 per cent and pushing the annual rate of increase to 1.6 per cent. Some of the increase simply derives from a series of back revisions to the data. But the Office for National Statistics hinted at signs of an underlying improvement, doubling its estimate of the trend in growth for manufacturing output from 1 to 2 per cent.

Not was the improvement confined to one of the more peripheral sectors of the economy. The highly export-sensitive engineering sector showed a quarterly improvement of 3.6 per cent compared with the same period last year. The separate trade figures have also stubbornly refused to show the expected collapse in export performance. This is not to say life is rosy for the nation's manufacturers. The spate of profit warnings over the past six months emphasises that exporters have taken the pain of the surge in sterling by cutting profit margins. The forward indicators continue to point to a slowdown in export orderbooks and the data could yet take a turn for the worse.

economy but also because it is proving far more competitive than when faced with similar problems in the past. If consumer spending — which has been at the heart of the Bank's obsession with overheating — now also continues to ease gently, the economy might yet escape with the fabled "soft landing".

Beckett's law needs to get tough at DTI

There certainly is a new sheriff in town, down at the DTI. Since Margaret Beckett rode into the Victoria Street headquarters, the place has been a hive of activity. Bass's purchase of Carlsberg Tønder and the London Clubs bid for Capital Corporation have been blocked. The merger of Sainsbury and P&O is likely to be given the green light, with conditions, and, miracle of miracles, the report following the DTI investigation into Guinness is finally going to be published, only 12 years after the Distillers bid that prompted the inquiry.

under investigators in four other DTI inquiries. The investigation into Wace, the pre-press group, has been going on for five-and-a-half years, and nobody can work out what it is about. The Mirror Group inquiry was held up by the criminal trials and is now moving forward four years and three months after it was launched. Investigators have been looking at the finance company Chancery for four years and hotels group Queens Moat House for nearly as long.

These investigations are expensive, slow and largely fruitless. Rarely do they expose fraud and, if they don't, the main sanction is to try to have the directors of the companies disqualified as directors, a process that is also expensive and slow. Sheriff Beckett should turn her attention to how the DTI might become more effective in rooting out corporate misdemeanours.

Family fortunes

I AM indebted to Professor Sue Birley of Imperial College, who, at the behest of Grant Thornton, the accountants, studied family businesses and found that most are "highly professional and commercially aware". Among her conclusions are that most families who run businesses disagreed with the idea that family members should automatically be entitled to a job in the firm. Did she ask Stephen and Andy Rubin at Pentland?

Fairey puts expansion on hold

By JENNIFER HANAWALD

FAIREY GROUP, the industrial electronics and engineering company that has grown steadily through acquisitions over the past two years, yesterday appeared to rule out further purchases.

John Poulter, chief executive, said: "We are in a natural period of consolidation for the acquisitions we made in the first half of 1997." But he added that in the longer term the company would "continue to develop in sensible ways to generate profit and shareholder value".

Fairey lifted pre-tax profits to £23.96 million (£21.33 million) in the six months to June 30, despite the impact of currency fluctuations, which hit profits by £1.4 million. Sales rose to £153.7 million (£118.4 million). Earnings rose 7 per cent to 16.5p a share and the interim dividend is 3.05p (2.85p).

Sales in the electronics sector were up 47 per cent at £115.1 million including acquisitions.

The electrical power division's sales were down 22 per cent at £8.2 million. Sales in aerospace and filtration rose 1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively.

Blue Circle plays down fears over Malaysia growth

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BLUE CIRCLE Industries, the cement group, yesterday sought to play down worries about growth prospects in Malaysia, one of its main markets, and said it was still looking for acquisition opportunities in the Far East.

Concern about the possible impact on the company of the postponement of several big building projects in Malaysia overshadowed its interim results announcement and helped to send its shares 7p lower, to 395p.

Among the projects that the Malaysian Government said it would postpone last week, after a run on the currency and a stock market plunge, are the controversial \$6.2 billion (£3.9 million) Bakun hydro-electric dam in the Borneo jungle, a huge highway and what would have been the world's longest building.

Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive, said he thought that a recession in Malaysia was unlikely, but he does see a slowdown in the rate of growth. He added: "It would have to be a dramatic change in growth to impact cement



Tugendhat buying plans

demand." The company, chaired by Lord Tugendhat, made an operating profit of £16.7 million in Malaysia and Singapore in the first half, down 6.2 per cent, while turnover was up 14.6 per cent, to £94.4 million. The discrepancy arose from having to import cement at low margins. It expects to see a dramatic improvement in margins after it opens a new plant in Malaysia next week.

The company, which bought the St Mary's Cement Corporation in Canada for £194 million earlier this year,

said it was still keen to make acquisitions. Its gearing is at 18 per cent and could be raised to 45 per cent with £200 million of bank borrowings. It is keenest on buying building materials companies in the Far East and South America.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £116.9 million in the six months to June 30, from £116.3 a year earlier, after taking an exceptional provision of £25 million to cover the cost of an agreement with UK employees reached in May. The provision covers redundancy costs across Blue Circle Cement UK's operations and asset write-offs associated with works upgrades.

The group's heating division saw its operating profit increase 18 per cent, to £120.9 million, while the bathrooms division — where it owns Armitage Shanks and Italy's Ceramica Dolomite — saw a drop in operating profit of 10 per cent, to £11.5 million, hit by a marked slowdown in the Italian market. A 4.65p (4.25p) deemed Foreign Income dividend will be paid on November 24.

Tempos, page 28

British Vita advances in first half

By JENNIFER HANAWALD

BRITISH VITA, the polymers and fibres group, lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £32 million in the first half, in spite of a fall in turnover because of currency fluctuations.

Sales of continuing operations were down 8.9 per cent, to £416.1 million from £456.8 million.

Frank Eaton, deputy chief executive, said the fall in turnover, which hit all divisions, was due to the transitional effects of foreign currency, but added that the impact on pre-tax profit was minimal, thanks to a corresponding fall in the cost of raw materials.

Earnings rose to 9.6p a share from 7.7p and the interim dividend was raised to 4.25p a share from 4p. The shares fell 3p to 247p.

Eurotunnel enjoys fast-track recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

EUROTUNNEL's recovery from the fire that damaged the tunnel last November continued last month, with a 25 per cent rise in traffic on Le Shuttle trains, after a 29.5 per cent rise in July.

In the first eight months of the year, more than 1.34 million vehicles used Le Shuttle, little changed from the first eight months of last year, when it carried 1.39 million, despite the reduced service in the first five months of the year in the wake of the fire in November. A record number of vehicles for a single day, 10,986, were carried on August 29, the company said, and Le Shuttle's cross-channel market share is now more than 40 per cent.

At its peak before last year's fire its market share had risen to about 45 per cent.

Eurostar passenger traffic between Paris, London and

Brussels grew 4.5 per cent in August from July and was up 20 per cent from August last year, with a record number of 681,663 passengers carried during the month.

Le Shuttle Freight has recaptured 67 per cent of last year's traffic level in only its second month since its relaunch, despite the fact that freight traffic is traditionally lower during August, Eurotunnel said.

Railfreight tonnage in August totalled 172,599 tonnes, compared with 134,774 in August last year. Eurotunnel said seasonal variations for railfreight have meant a slight decrease in tonnage this month, but shows an increase on August 1996 of 28 per cent.

Eurotunnel shares were unchanged at 69p yesterday. A year ago, they traded at 115p.

P&O's wait, page 29

Builder sees calm revival in housing

By CHRIS AYRES

WILSON BOWDEN, one of Britain's biggest housebuilders, says that prices in southern England are stabilising.

The company, which develops residential and commercial property, said it did not expect an unsustainable boom. The average price of its properties had risen by only 4 per cent over the past six months.

David Wilson, chairman, said: "The boom in the South has levelled out and the market is now less frothy and more sustainable. I do not think the market will get out of control."

The company has sold nearly 1,500 homes in the past half year, at an average £13,000. In the half, to June 30, pre-tax profits rose to £29.1 million, from £17.3 million, on turnover of £231 million (£147 million). Earnings per share were 21.2p (12.3p). The interim dividend is 3.3p (3p).

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM, 3-5 MARCH 1998

Scottish Media plans digital TV service

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

SCOTTISH MEDIA, whose interests include Scottish Television, has decided to launch its own Tariant Television service on digital terrestrial television next year.

Scottish may take some programmes from the planned ITV2 channel on digital but it is now planning its own devoted schedule. The aim is to pay more attention to Scottish sport, in particular local football, horse racing and golf.

Andrew Flanagan, Scottish Media's managing director, said yesterday that if Scottish did not set up its own dedicated service "you would just cannibalise your existing advertising revenue".

Yesterday Scottish announced record interim pre-tax profits of £18.5 million, up 80 per cent, for the six months to June 30. The results reflected a better than expected £7 million operating profit from Caledonian, publishers of *The Herald* and *Evening Times* in Glasgow, acquired last October.

Operating profit from continuing businesses, mainly television, rose 25 per cent to £11 million. Scottish Television's advertising revenue increased 5 per cent, well ahead of ITV as a whole. Scottish increased its share of total advertising revenue to 5.02 per cent (4.79 per cent). Earnings increased to 21.6p a share from 11.5p. The interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 6.6p a share.

Tempos, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

EMI price holds despite further heavy turnover

WHAT is going on at EMI? Folk in the City want to know. There was further heavy turnover in the shares yesterday, even though the price held steady at 570p.

By the close of business, a further 2.15 million shares had changed hands. Not bad for a company in which the normal market size is just 15,000 shares. However, there was still no word from the company, still regarded as one of the hottest stocks among speculators.

There was talk on Friday that Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group, was poised to make an offer, but no bid was forthcoming. Trading-floor talk suggested EMI was about to make an announcement setting the record straight. Still nothing emerged.

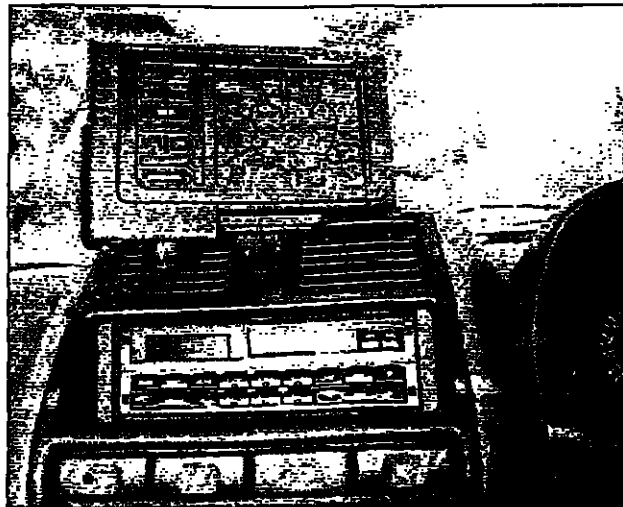
The music group has failed to live up to expectations since being demerged from Thorn in August last year, at the equivalent of 750p a share. The company has failed to impress in spite of handing back more than £500 million to shareholders. In July, Sir Colin Southgate, chairman, told shareholders this would be a difficult year.

The rest of the equity market ended the day on a flat note, unable to draw support from a firm opening rise on Wall Street. The strongest of numbers revived talk of a possible rise in interest rates when the Bank of England's monetary policy committee meets tomorrow.

In the event, the FTSE 100 index closed off its low for the day with a deficit of 9.0 points at 4,985.2 with fewer than 500 million shares traded.

There was wholesale confusion as trading got under way in British Energy before trading was suspended for several hours. The final instalment of 98p per partly-paid share falls due for payment next Monday. However, because of a mistake attributed to the Stock Exchange, some traders began quoting the shares fully paid at 300p, while others were trading in the partly paid form of 208p. Once the mistake was discovered, a halt was called between 8.44am and 11.04am. Trading resumed later, with the price ending at 309p as 1.38 million shares changed hands.

Dealers have complained that this is not the first time such a mistake has been made. There was a similar occurrence with



Trafficmaster ended higher on confirmation of merger talks

Railtrack, down 14 1/2p at 757 1/2p yesterday, when its shares went fully paid.

British Aerospace saw an early mark-up on the back of reports that it is close to demerging Arlington, its commercial property arm. The deal could raise up to £300 million. Société Générale Strauss-Turnbull is enthusiastic and has been telling clients to switch out of Rolls-Royce.

2p firmer at 230p. BAE is due to unveil half year figures on Thursday that should show pre-tax profits more than £100 million higher at £295 million, with its defence order book stretching well into the next century. The shares closed 3 1/2p higher at £15.67p on turnover of almost a million shares. Demerger is also on the agenda at P&O, up 13p at 660 1/2p, whose Bovis

housebuilding arm is to get a separate listing. Great Universal Stores, up 20 1/2p at 663p, also says that demerging Burberrys is still an option it might consider.

Savills, the estate agent, rose 2 1/2p to 130p on news that a top Hong Kong property company was investing £17 million in a 20 per cent stake. First Pacific is buying 10.6 million new shares at 160p.

The decision by Scottish Power to seek a quote for its shares on Wall Street was rewarded with a rise of 7 1/2p to 469p. About 8 per cent of the company is due to be listed.

Burmah Castrol has risen 100p since unveiling better than expected figures last week that included a hit of £21 million relating to currency transactions. The shares have been supported by "buy" recommendations from UBS, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and BZW. The shares finished 3 1/2p firmer at £10.96.

Trafficmaster touched 405p before ending the session 7 1/2p higher at 396p after confirming that it had entered merger talks with the AIM-listed Tracker Network, 65p better at 610p. At last night's closing levels the two companies have a combined worth of £146 million.

William Ransom was steady at 77 1/2p in spite of Michael Ransom, chairman, selling 25,000 shares at 75p. It reduces his holding to 510,923 shares, or 3.22 per cent of the company.

GILT-EDGED: The stronger than expected industrial production figures failed to put a brake on things, with prices holding on to their early gains. Trading was subdued, with investors anxious to digest today's inflation figures before committing themselves to opening fresh positions.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt rose £2 1/2 to £115 1/2 as a total of 34,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 gained £2 1/2 to £107 1/2. Among shorter-dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £2 1/2 to £103.

NEW YORK: Stocks closed higher as the market tracked the jump in bonds. Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, did not rattle Wall Street with his latest comments on the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 12.77 points at 7,835.18.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	7835.18 (+12.77)
S&P Composite	931.20 (+1.19)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18633.86 (+163.1)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	14806.49 (+242.94)
Amsterdam:	
EDE Index	905.30 (+11.31)
Sydney:	
ASX	2656.2 (+30.2)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4036.01 (+32.64)
Singapore:	
Strait	1891.93 (+7.57)
Brussels:	
General	13778.18 (+66.52)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2940.89 (+16.38)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	1163.90 (+28.30)
London:	
FTSE 100	4985.2 (-9.0)
FTSE 250	4068.1 (+5.1)
FTSE 350	2401.3 (+3.0)
FTSE Europe 100	2617.20 (+4.64)
FTSE All-Share	2368.18 (+2.21)
FTSE Non Financials	2569.82 (+1.52)
FTSE Financials	125.82 (+0.43)
FTSE Govt Secs	47.46 (+0.23)
Bulgaria	115
SEAO Volume	465.0m
US\$	1.5823 (+0.0039)
German Mark	2.8614 (+0.0009)
Exchange Index	100.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate (4pm)	4.75%
ECU	1.4994
RPI	197.5 Jul (3.7%) Jan 1997=100
RPI	136.4 Jul (3.0%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta CV	397
Bristol & West Plc	109
Carmel Ltd	136
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Galen Holdings	240
Helicon Pub	92
Kingfisher Leisure	175
Reabourne Merlon	108
SBS Group	110
Severn Trent B	37
Stentor Warrants	46
Style Holdings	85
Thorn B	20
Viglen Technology	62

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Golden Land n/p (21)	2
Logica n/p (603)	162
Pendragon n/p (265)	7
SEET n/p (30)	2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Sentry Farm	107 1/2 (+15p)
Rolle & Nolan	347 1/2 (+20p)
Royalblue	221 1/2 (+12p)
Raytheon	467 1/2 (+25p)
Coltchick	312 1/2 (+15p)
Chorochance	297 1/2 (+14p)
Danka Bn Sys	782 1/2 (+35p)
Jarvis	278 1/2 (+10p)
GUS	683p (+20p)
JIB Sports	477 1/2 (+10p)
BTG	787 1/2 (+19p)
Conlab Pharma	840p (+25p)
Pelon	409 1/2 (+12p)

FALLS:	
Verol	89p (-10p)
Woolston	668p (-15p)
Phylodion	700p (-30p)
Harfax	714p (-12p)
Whitbread	815p (-12p)
Blue Circle	335p (-7p)
Stand Chart	797 1/2 (-11p)
Lloyds TSB	739p (-8p)
Harmony	282p (-8p)
Plasman	185p (-8p)
Spirax-Sarco	883 1/2 (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS Unsquared Circle

THIS was to be a great year for Blue Circle — burgeoning demand for cement in Asia coupled with recovery in heating products in Europe — but it is not going according to plan. Growth prospects in Malaysia, where Blue Circle has been one of main beneficiaries of a building boom, look at best shaky.

After the recent sharp depreciation of its currency and the plunge in share prices, the country has responded by postponing some of its "megaprojects", including the Bakun dam. While this may be good news for the Malaysian financial markets, it is very bad news for anyone in the domestic building trade. Those companies that supply the building blocks needed to crowd the Kuala Lumpur skyline could be at risk from a squeeze in the construction sector.

Blue Circle's operating profit in Asia in the

first half was hit by delays to the start-up of new cement production capacity in Malaysia. It hopes that the new capacity will replace low-margin imported cement, improving profits and increasing sales. Blue Circle thinks the Malaysian Government would rather buy from the new local source to shore up the balance of payments. This holds good as long as the Government carries on buying cement. However, when a construction boom ends it tends to be unpleasantly abrupt. This could leave Blue Circle with a shiny new plant just as the key customer cancels a big order.

None of this would matter as much if the UK cement market were in better shape, but the second half has so far failed to sustain the growth level of the first. At best, Blue Circle's growth is deferred, but Malaysia offers a reason to avoid the shares.

Scottish Media

NOT EVERY investor was ecstatic when Scottish Television, as it then was, decided to pre-empt the flotation of Caledonian Publishing, the company behind The Herald and Evening Times in Glasgow.

Fashionably billed as a cross-media deal, it gave Scottish an interesting position in the local advertising market, but some observers rather sniffily wondered why Scottish was bothering with such a "mature medium" as newspapers.

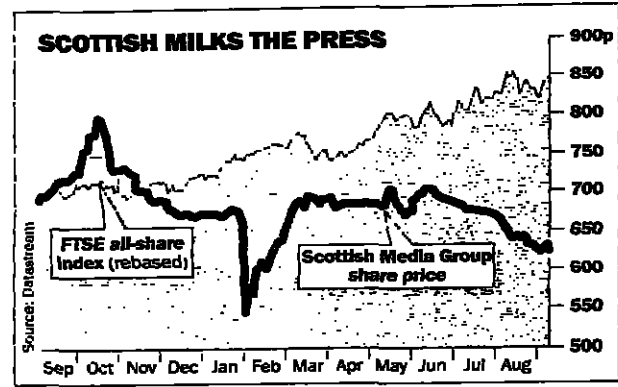
The answer came yesterday in rather eloquent terms. Newspapers may be mature, but they share a common characteristic with commercial television — they are cash cows — and Scottish, while increasing investment in editorial, has milked Caledonian's cash potential as

advisingly. Newspaper advertising yield has been increased at the expense of volume and bulk sales have been put to the sword even though it has meant circulation has suffered in the short term.

Scottish Media can even point to evidence of genuine cross-media advertising campaigns, introducing

local companies such as Arnold Clark, Scotland's largest car dealer to the joys of television advertising. Caledonian contributed £7 million to operating profits, including £1 million from cost savings.

It looks like a very solid base from which to launch the expected takeover of Ulster Television.



Forth Ports

AMID all the fuss about the property ventures of Associated British Ports, its diminutive rival Forth Ports is worth a look. Rather than relying on real estate to fund its growth, the Scottish port operator has invested heavily in transport. Since its flotation at 110p in March 1992, Forth has acquired Dundee and, more excitingly, Tilbury, giving it a big catchment area in the South of England, boosting the shares to 610p.

Forth has done well, but is highly dependent on growth in volume of trade through its ports. In the half year, tonnage slipped back a whisker, but growth is forecast at Tilbury after a deal with MoDo, the Swedish paper company. Yet, there are worries.

In February Forth took over a bankrupt shipping business at Grangemouth, Currie Line, apparently to safeguard its own stevedoring operations. Forth does

not reveal the size of the investment, but indicates that it was modest and intends to keep it under review. The deal raises unfortunate comparisons with Mersey Docks, which, for analogous reasons, took over the Eurolink ferry service to The Netherlands, only to shut it down later at a cost of £9 million.

Ports should stay out of the shipping business — owning your customers as a means of controlling volumes in the core business is the worst form of vertical integration. Shipping is a capital-intensive and highly cyclical business with poor margins, and Forth would better employ its funds building warehouses and grainstores, where it makes good money. The shares would be good value without the extra spice from Currie.

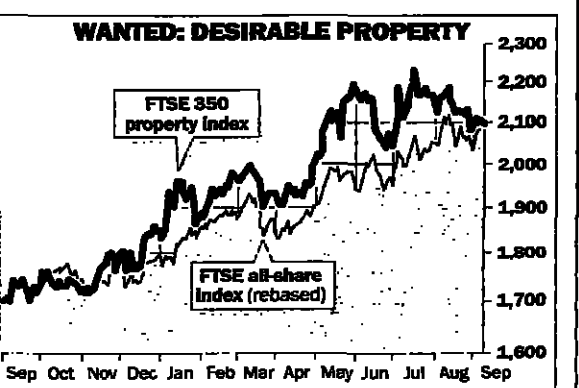
ASW

ASW has descended to that nether world inhabited by companies that fail to attract the attentions of analysts in

big broking firms. The steelmaker's share price has dropped from 247p in 1995 to less than 30p.

Yesterday's interim results showed some improvements, but not enough to alter the City's overall disdain. The strength of the dollar has led cheap competitors, such as the Turks, to export to the US instead of Europe, allowing some price increases on the Continent. UK prices, however, are still at low levels and the winter can always wreak havoc on demand for steel from construction companies. Having expanded aggressively on the Continent, ASW suffered from the severe construction recession and has tried to get round its cash-generation problem through disposals and staff layoffs. ASW sells a commodity in an oversupplied market so there are few bets on the company soon attracting the attentions of highly paid analysts.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHERD



MEPC's agreed bid for PSIT, up 22p at 196p, has refocused attention on the property sector, in which the clamour for the best sites is likely to result in further deals being struck. Before striking the deal with PSIT, MEPC, up 7p at 476 1/2p, had talks with Hammonson, down 8 1/2p at 442p, and Greycoat, 1p firmer at 184 1/2p, before breaking off talks as late as last week with Burford, down 8p at 108p.

The sector as a whole is stronger than ever, with the likes of Merrill Lynch, the broker, still recommending

it to clients. Sources close to MEPC say that the PSIT acquisition should add 7p to its net asset value.

One broker said: "MEPC has been anxious to expand its property portfolio. It sees this deal as buying wholesale. It's just a 5 per cent premium to net asset."

Other brokers say MEPC has been looking to beef up its property side and it has been difficult to buy in the general market. Net asset values have been rising strongly and other companies are looking to buy more property.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE	
COCOA	
Dec	1102.17 Dec
Mar	1171.16 Mar
May	1158.15 May
Jul	1176.17 Jul
Oct	1164.18 Oct
Dec	1201.18 Dec
Volume	5962
ROBUSTA COFFEE \$/MT	
Dec	1034.16 Dec
Mar	1046.16 Mar
May	1050.16 May
Jul	1054.16 Jul
Oct	1058.16 Oct
Dec	1062.16 Dec
Volume	2443
WHITE SUGAR (C/MT)	
Dec	324.23 Dec
Mar	324.23 Mar
May	324.23 May
Jul	324.23 Jul
Oct	324.23 Oct
Dec	324.23 Dec
Volume	215

ICIS-LOR (London \$/bbl FOB)	
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.15
Brent 15 day (Nov)	18.10
Brent 15 day (Dec)	18.05
WTI 15 day (Oct)	18.00
WTI 15 day (Nov)	17.95
WTI 15 day (Dec)	17.90
WTI 15 day (Jan)	17.85
WTI 15 day (Feb)	17.80
WTI 15 day (Mar)	17.75
WTI 15 day (Apr)	17.70
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WTI 15 day (Mar)	12.95
WTI 15 day (Apr)	12.90
WTI 15 day (May)	12.85
WTI 15 day (Jun)	12.80
WTI 15 day (Jul)	12.75
WTI 15 day (Aug)	12.70
WTI 15 day (Sep)	12.65
WTI 15 day (Oct)	12.60
WTI 15 day (Nov)	12.55
WTI 15 day (Dec)	12.50
WTI 15 day (Jan)	12.45
WTI 15 day (Feb)	12.40
WTI 15 day (Mar)	12.35
WTI 15 day (Apr)	12.30
WTI 15 day (May)	12.25
WTI 15 day (Jun)	12.20
WTI 15 day (Jul)	12.15
WTI 15 day (Aug)	12.10
WTI 15 day (Sep)	12.05
WTI 15 day (Oct)	12.00
WTI 15 day (Nov)	11.95
WTI 15 day (Dec)	11.90
WTI 15 day (Jan)	11.85
WTI 15 day (Feb)	11.80
WTI 15 day (Mar)	11.75
WTI 15 day (Apr)	11.70
WTI 15 day (May)	11.65
WTI 15 day (Jun)	11.60
WTI 15 day (Jul)	11.55
WTI 15 day (Aug)	11.50
WTI 15 day (Sep)	11.45
WTI 15 day (Oct)	11.40
WTI 15 day (Nov)	11.35
WTI 15 day (Dec)	11.30
WTI 15 day (Jan)	11.25
WTI 15 day (Feb)	11.20
WTI 15 day (Mar)	11.15
WTI 15 day (Apr)	11.10
WTI 15 day (May)	11.05
WTI 15 day (Jun)	11.00



Taken at the flood: P&O hopes the current at the Department of Trade and Industry will prove favourable as it attempts to compete with the Channel Tunnel operators

P&O awaits the DTI tide

Life has not been kind to P&O Ferries recently. Its Dover to Calais market, once one of the biggest UK money-spinners, has been wrecked by a state-sponsored predator that trades while technically bust.

Its only escape route — joining forces with its arch-rival, Stena Line — has been blocked by painstaking government scrutiny leaving it exposed to another summer of brutal competition from the Channel Tunnel.

But now, after what is set to become the longest-running DTI inquiry of the decade, things are moving. Ministerial sources say that Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is preparing to give the formal green light by the end of this month.

Today P&O is meeting officials at the Office of Fair Trading to discuss conditions. The formula that is likely to emerge from the meeting is a custom-made inflation-linked system

which will, in effect, establish a recommended retail price system for ferry journeys.

P&O and Stena Line are also likely to be asked to give more ticketing booths and boarding space to rivals Sea France, Hoverspeed and Sally, and provide other assurances to the DTI that they will not abuse their market.

Both ferry operators are likely to agree at once. They say their main concern is that prices will fall through the floor under competition from the Channel Tunnel, and any safety net would be welcome.

Eurotunnel has proved to be the competitor from hell. It defies normal market forces. With debts of £8.76 billion and net liabilities of £371 million it should theoretically be dead.

The talks come as P&O's cross-Channel service is almost on its knees, having only ten years ago stood accused of being the most expensive mile-for-mile travel in the world.

In an attempt to fight compe-

Fraser Nelson says the fortune of the proposed merger with Stena is bound up in the affairs of state

tion from the Channel Tunnel, it reduced its peak-time return ticket to match Le Shuttle's brochure price of £165 — a 58 per cent decline on last year. The five ferries it ran from Dover to Calais each day have been carrying fewer and fewer passengers. Stena Line has been suffering from the same problem.

The logic from their Dover to Calais merger is to cut three of the nine daily services and share the administrative burden. The new company, to be called P&O Stena Line, would run the Dover to Calais passenger service, and the freight services between Newhaven and Dieppe, and Dover and Zeebrugge.

By not competing, they say they will be able to run a lean, mean shuttle service that leaves Dover every 45 minutes, billing itself as a more frequent operator. Drivers, they say, will be able to pull up at any moment confident of an imminent departure. The idea, both insist, is to save money and not to increase ticket fees.

Analysts agree that if P&O and Stena Line were to raise prices it would amount to commercial suicide. With hardly any competitive advantage beyond cheap duty-free drink, undercutting Le Shuttle is seen as their only option.

The DTI, however, has had reservations that the merger may concentrate too much of the cross-Channel market in too few hands and pave the

way for a cartel between ship owners and Channel Tunnel operators.

Part of the negotiations that will take place today will be devoted to making sure the price-fixing system would leave them powerless to exploit such a position.

P&O has told Mrs Beckett that its problem can be solved by reducing the phenomenal costs of running a ferry. The chance to reduce its £300 million-a-year costs, it says, would be enough to restore its chances of competing against Le Shuttle without any ticket increases.

Each ship costs between £14 million and £17 million a year to run, through wages for a swathe of staff both at sea and on land in addition to heavy maintenance, cleaning and safety costs.

If it does not have to compete against Stena Line, it could dispatch three ferries to another operation and save some £70 million a year. It costs

little to carry passengers. Those willing to walk on are charged less than £10 to cross the Channel — an offer which has proved popular with Kent students who are able to make the journey with the sole intention of buying two bottles of gin.

Savings can be recouped at the duty-free bar, and they need spend only 20 minutes on French soil.

The opportunity to offer "booze cruises" gives the ferries a distinct competitive advantage over Le Shuttle. Yet the lucrative duty-free market is set to be abolished in two years' time — wiping out another main subsidy for ferry fares.

It will no longer be possible to enjoy a cross-Channel drinking session for less money than a night out in Ashford — and travellers will no longer be able to use their time on the ferry to load the boot of their car with cheap beer.

This has not escaped the DTI's attention. It has been feared that, if the merger is waved through without any price conditions, both operators would be able to increase prices when proceeds from duty-frees vanish.

Although the signs are good, P&O is still not claiming victory. "We think we have a tremendous chance of getting through, but the DTI's recent decisions have surprised many people and even on the glaring industrial logic we cannot be too sure."

If the worst happens and the link-up is rejected, analysts say that P&O will simply walk away, phasing down over five years. One leading P&O analyst concluded: "It has no moral duty to service the Dover to Calais line."

The P&O/Stena plan is not the most complicated merger in the world. Changes will be made to only one route, and both companies will compete on all other cross-Channel passenger routes.

But as ferries continue to be marginalised — by both the Channel Tunnel and cheap flights — the conditions imposed on P&O are likely to be used as a blueprint to judge the consolidation in the industry that is certain to follow.



JANET BUSH

Windfall poll cheers Bank

If there is a lesson, for economists from the extraordinary events in Britain over the past week, it is that predicting people's behaviour is virtually impossible. Dramatic shifts in the way society thinks and acts are the random element that no econometric model has been able to incorporate. In the 1980s, nobody anticipated the boom unleashed by financial deregulation. Now the question of how consumers will react to building society windfalls is the great unknown.

Friday saw the latest survey by Mori, partly financed by the Bank of England, on what recipients of free shares have done with them, and what they intend to do with them. The broad message from the 764 people Mori reached by telephone is mildly reassuring for the Bank, which has long worried that windfalls would turn a sustainable rise in retail spending into an unstable, and ultimately inflationary, boom.

Of the £36 billion in windfall shares, Mori estimates that around £6 billion has been spent but that a good proportion would have been spent anyway. The headline numbers on shares sold and proceeds spent are, if anything, slightly lower than the Bank feared in its baseline projections. In addition, questions about people's intentions suggest a considerable degree of caution. Of the 65 per cent of windfall shares still being held, only 5 per cent were deemed likely to be sold in the next year, with 57 per cent being held as long-term investments, and 38 per cent likely to be sold "if stock market conditions are favourable".

Given huge rises in most building society shares since flotation, one has to wonder if the price will ever be right. For many, the Mori survey provided the first hard evidence that the windfall phenomenon is probably largely over, that it provided a considerable one-off boost to retail sales in May and June but has not appeared to spill over into a dangerous over-confidence among consumers, which might have persuaded them to spend more than they realistically had at their disposal.

Windfalls always worried the Bank because they threatened spending power on top of considerable underlying strength in consumption because of rising incomes, a recovering housing market and a long period, under Kenneth Clarke, of low interest rates. To the extent that the windfall effect is limited in size and longevity, the Bank should be less worried.

It is worth noting that, in spite of the potential injection of unprecedented spending power into the economy, Britain's savings rate has remained above 10 per cent. In 1988, it fell to 4 per cent. Remember too that windfalls that are being saved do not figure in the national accounts, being deemed, bizarrely, to be an identical amount of wealth whether held in mutual or demutualised companies. The active choice to save windfalls provides a fascinating insight into today's consumer psychology and yet it does not appear in the national statistics.

Positive grist all this may be to inflation doves but windfalls cannot be dismissed entirely as a threat. There is a lot of money saved in highly liquid form and, even if consumers keep their shares, they may be tempted to splash out from disposable income, knowing they have that cushion. Let us see Christmas holiday bookings before becoming too complacent.

Even if the windfall threat seems less dramatic than it once was, the MPC is still left with crucial judgments on retail sales in general. It can, of course, be argued that the very fact that the windfall effect has been weaker than many expected is proof of how strong the underlying trend has been. In fact, the first evidence has emerged that sales are losing momentum under the weight of higher interest rates but it is early days.

Even if the economy slows, behaviour on windfalls is hard to predict. Some may liquidate their shares to maintain their spending power. Others will be more inclined to keep them saved as a hedge against greater economic uncertainty. Blessed will be the economist, or popular psychologist, who can anticipate which will prevail.

Monolithic MEPC is on the move

Carl Mortished on James Tuckey's battle to keep control of a property colossus with many critics

There must have been times last week when James Tuckey, the urbane establishment figure who heads MEPC, wished he were Nick Leslau, the amiable university dropout who runs Burford Group. For a brief period, Tuckey had entertained thoughts of buying Burford after Leslau had made known to MEPC that he would like to do a deal. Hardly stirring stuff in the rough and tumble of commercial property, but no sooner had news of the Burford talks and the subsequent takeover of PSIT been announced than Tuckey became the object of vitriolic comments such as "a move that smacks of desperation" and "institutions are spitting".

Four sets of takeover talks in six months were too many, said critics, even if the last deal, the £247 million takeover of PSIT came off without a hitch. No one seemed bothered that the star-studded Burford team of

Leslau and Nigel Wray were hawking their company, apparently contemplating the unchallenging role of non-executive directors of MEPC.

No one doubts that Tuckey and his chairman, Lord Blakenham, are fighting a rear-guard action to keep control of the £2 billion MEPC battleship. Earlier this year, a cabal of institutions, led by the Co-operative Insurance Society, were so irritated by MEPC's poor performance that they persuaded Hammerson to propose merger talks. These came to naught, some say because Mercury Asset Management, one of MEPC's largest shareholders, would not play ball. More probably, they failed because Ron Spinney, Hammerson's chief executive,

had the sense to fear wrecking Hammerson's recovery by paying too much for MEPC.

Is MEPC's future still on the line? Possibly, but its share price is now back at estimated current net asset value and UBS Securities is forecasting 16 per cent growth over the next year. After all the fuss, the only takeover actually completed was one that MEPC initiated and which stayed a secret. The other deals came from elsewhere: like Hammerson, talks with Greycoat were prompted by a disgruntled shareholder, and the Burford debacle was prompted by that firm's restless management.

The monolithic MEPC should now gain from recent rapid upward movement in rents. Its UK exposure is

increased by adding the much-ignored PSIT, which has a good record of asset growth. Even the much-maligned Alban Gate, the City office development that, more than anything, made institutions round on Tuckey, may now come to the company's rescue. Let in the depths of recession at rents in the £20 per square foot range, the property is set for a big uplift, with City rents moving towards twice that figure.

If Tuckey felt a moment's envy for the Burford management last week, it will soon pass. There is a life cycle in small property companies: from an asset base of £50 million, a talented entrepreneur can triple or quadruple a share price with relatively few property deals. Burford, capitalised

at almost £500 million, is at the stage at which the deals must be much bigger to make a difference. In a hot market, such opportunities are rare and few would be surprised if the Burford management wanted to quit at the top rather than face the slog of turning £500 million into £1 billion. Unfortunately, the stock market thinks they have missed the boat: as MEPC's shares rose yesterday, Burford's fell below net asset value.

Tuckey's problem is different. In the long term, all that MEPC can hope for with an unwieldy £4 billion collection of properties is an above-average performance occasionally boosted by acquiring a smaller rival. Gargantuan investment companies cannot hope to achieve the hare-like growth sprints of a Burford or an Argent, but, after last week's events, investors may be content that the MEPC giant tortoise has broken into a trot.

notwithstanding, of the Simon Clegg who is secretary of the British Olympic Association.)

Redgrave will be addressing a gathering of businessmen at Henley-on-Thames next month. They are being threatened with bromides such as "last year's performance will not win this year's competition". Perhaps he will lift his game into a new league on the day, as I believe the sports commentators say. Or perhaps the businessmen will have to content themselves with meeting a real live sportsman and chatting about the Olympics and all that. And perhaps this will suffice.

MARTIN WALLER

Time heals

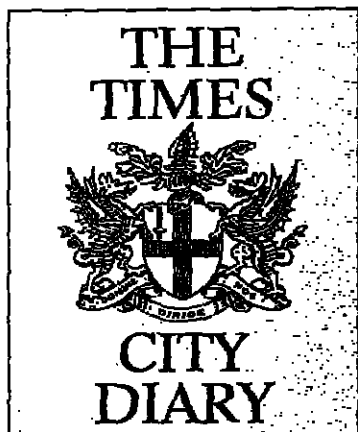
THE rehabilitation of Jim Slater continues apace. Some of us, should the name arise, may think of the collapse of his Slater Walker empire. Words like "asset-stripper" may come to mind. Some may recall the keenness of the Singaporean Government to extradite him in 1976. Old men forget, however, and to a younger generation he is an investment guru. Slater is hosting a brace of educational conferences shortly, in association with the worthy ProShare organisation and Barclays Bank's

private stock-broking arm. Neither see anything incongruous about linking their names with Slater's, so I suppose rehabilitation must now be complete. Barclay's Justin Urquhart Stewart says: "He's built up a reputation for someone who has been able to be a successful investor." ProShare's Terry Bond says: "We regard what he's doing as being the correct approach for educating the private investor." Neither are taking a fee, so all the financial risk lies with Slater. The maximum turnout is about 400 people each time, in which case he would be in the money.

● WHICH City institution is advertising for a load of derivatives staff? ING Barings, which wants analysts, a confirmed negotiator, whatever that is, and a supervisor. This last will "ensure that derivatives trades are processed in an accurate and timely manner, and within the policies, procedures and controls set down by the organisation". Interviews for this post will presumably be particularly gruelling. And no one called Barings need bother to apply.

Ripe moment

THE man from Del Monte he say: When do I start? As part of a slew of



signings that have gone largely unnoticed recently, Panmure Gordon has hired the chief financial officer from the South African pineapple peeler, Andrew Hawkins, at Charterhouse until last year and a brief career in the fruit trade, becomes a director of corporate finance at Panmure. This brings to six the number of senior appointments there, including two salesmen from Nomura, this month. I am told there are more to come.

Ruche hour

I AM impressed with the enterprise of a group of Hoare Govett types who went out last week for the stag night of Neil Collingridge, director of cor-

porate finance, ahead of his wedding at the weekend. He was promised £400, proceeds to cancer research, if he travelled back by Tube from the West End to Kennington wearing a ballerina's tutu and one of those plastic pairs of false breasts they sell to tourists. He did. He was also promised a further £100 for charity if he persuaded me to write about it. And I did. But just this once.

● A JEANS manufacturer has put up posters featuring a be-janed female leg ending in a stiletto heel stamping firmly on a nude male torso. The headline: "Put the boot in." Very tasteful. Anyone care to speculate how long the ad would stay up if the boot were on the other foot, so to speak, and the sex roles reversed?

Golden days

WILL CARLING has found a lucrative niche persuading treacherous executives that success on the sports field can somehow rub off on them and be translated into success in business. Now Steve Redgrave, about the only surefire gold medalist we have still competing, is heading down the same route. The rower, who found further success in the Alps at the weekend in the coxless fours, has linked up with Galileo, a marketing consultancy founded by Simon Clegg, until the end of last year a managing director at Hoare Govett. (And no relation, strange coincidence



Steve Redgrave will explain his vision of success in business

WHY SETTLE FOR A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD?

infringe v. 1 hair fashionably combed forward (see Beatles) 2 Rugby Football obstruct someone accidentally on purpose 3 to break a law or a right.

novation n. 1 total lack of cheering or clapping (see Synchronized Swimming) 2 contract whereby a creditor at the request of the debtor agrees to take another person as debtor in place of the original debtor.

placing v. 1 a quota of flat fish 2 horses, dogs etc. in winning order (usu. foll. by payout) 3 act of placing shares on behalf of clients.

court n. 1 place to buy strawberries and cream 2 treat with flattering attention (esp. clients) 3 where justice is administered.

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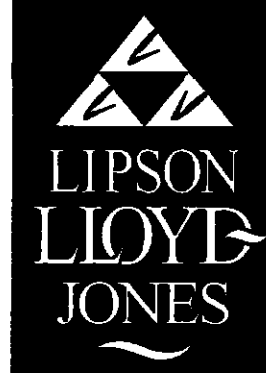
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How can victims fight back?

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More restrictions on the press? Yes, say Neil Addison and Tim Lawson-Cruttenden; no, says a QC

How can victims fight back?

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has reopened the debate on possible curbs on the press. But the debate's focus is on a possible privacy law — which misses the point. The real problem is harassment and the inability of victims to curb intrusive photographers. Proper journalism may involve breaches in privacy in the legitimate public interest, but there is no legitimate public interest in anyone being subjected to obsessive hounding by photographers. Before new legislation is introduced, it would be worth waiting to see whether the new Protection from Harassment Act can be used to deal with this problem. The Act was introduced to deal with the highly publicised stalking problem but has the potential to cover a wide range of situations including intrusive journalism. Last March the Princess was reported as hoping that the Act would help to curb some of the excesses of intrusive photographers. It is perhaps part of her tragedy that the Act had still not been brought into force.

The Act creates two criminal offences: a summary offence of causing harassment, alarm and distress on two occasions, which carries a potential sentence of six months' imprisonment, and a more serious offence of causing fear of violence on two occasions, carrying a potential sentence of five years' imprisonment. The Act provides a defence that the actions complained of were "reasonable". It is likely

that a legitimate press photographer acting in accordance with the journalists' code of conduct would always be acting reasonably, but the type of photographers who chased the Princess on motorcycles or who took photographs of Cherie Blair in her nightie would certainly not be acting "reasonably". These offences came into force on June 16 but there are difficulties in their enforcement. To arrest the alleged harasser, the police must be able to prove beyond reasonable doubt that two separate incidents of harassment occurred. That is not easy unless the police officer has an individual personal involvement in a particular case. In the case of harassment by journalists-photographers there is also a natural caution on the part of the police, who want to avoid accusations of press censorship. Consequently, the criminal parts of the Act will probably not be very effective in dealing with intrusive press photographers.

In this respect, the Act's more relevant part is Section 3, which relates to injunctions but which has not been brought fully into force. It makes harassment a tort and allows courts to grant injunctions to prevent it. However, this on its own does not particularly improve the existing law because injunctions to prevent harassment have been obtainable since a 1995 case, *Burris v Asadani*. The problem is enforcing the injunctions. Breach of an injunction,



including an anti-harassment injunction, is punishable as a contempt of court. But police have power neither to enforce an injunction nor to arrest anyone breaking any of an injunction's terms. So all too often injunctions can be ignored by harassers and stalkers. The consultation exercise undertaken before the Act came into force highlighted this as a major problem in dealing with harassing behaviour. The Act therefore introduced the unique idea of making breach of an anti-harassment injunction a criminal offence punishable with up to five years' jail. This will give the police the power to arrest an offender when an anti-harassment injunction is breached. Also, anyone involved in encouraging the harasser (including news editors who bought their pictures) could potentially be prosecuted as an aider and abettor. The Government plans to bring this part of the Act into force next month.

Making breach of injunctions a criminal offence may be unprecedented in English law but is common in many other jurisdictions. Section 127 of Canada's Criminal Code, for example, makes breach of any court order a criminal offence and there are similar provisions in the laws of most American states. In California local authorities and police have successfully

co-operated to use public nuisance injunctions to curb criminal gangs terrorising neighbourhoods. One of the advantages of proceeding by injunctions in the first instance is that the arguments as to whether the alleged harasser is acting reasonably or not can be properly explored by the civil court and a judgment made balancing the respective rights of the alleged harasser and the alleged victim. Unlike a criminal trial, which concentrates on whether a person's past actions were illegal, a civil court can look at the more straightforward question of whether behaviour is acceptable and should be allowed to continue. The police are merely enforcing a court decision instead of making the initial judgment themselves.

Until the provisions of the Act relating to injunctions are brought into force victims of harassment may have to consider bringing private criminal prosecutions in order to obtain a Restraining Order. Another unique aspect of the Act is that restraining orders are the criminal conviction under Sections 2 or 4, making them more difficult to obtain than injunctions. There are always dangers in considering legislation in re-

Resist pressure for a rushed law

In March this year, I represented Diana, Princess of Wales, in industrial tribunal proceedings in Croydon brought by a former employee who was claiming unfair dismissal. I saw the Princess in conference and she decided not to attend the hearing.

A large number of journalists (not previously known for their interest in employment law) were present inside and outside the tribunal in the hope that she would appear. On leaving the building after the case was settled, I found it a disturbing and puzzling experience to be surrounded and jostled by dozens of photographers taking hundreds of pictures of the representatives and advisers of the Princess getting into a taxi and driving off.

I would be very surprised if any of those photographs was ever published. Perhaps some of the photographers hoped that the Princess's barrister or solicitor might punch one of them on the nose, and so create a story.

To live under that pressure constantly must be intolerable. But does the law need to be amended to confer greater protection on public figures to protect them from the press?

English law already provides a remedy against the sort of harassment for which paparazzi journalists are responsible if it takes place in this country. Last year, the Princess of Wales obtained an injunction from the High Court against specific photographers to stop them from harassing her. The legal basis for her claim, the law of nuisance, was weakened earlier this year by a House of Lords decision — but that is academic because of the new Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This legislation makes it a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment, for a person knowingly and unreasonably to pursue "a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another". The Act also enables victims to seek the civil remedies of an injunction and damages. We will need to watch carefully how the Act is applied in practice (not all of it is yet in force). But the content of the new statute appears to address competing interests fairly and to provide effective remedies.

The harsh reality is that our law cannot, in practice, control the behaviour of journalists and photographers in France (a country which, in any event, has some of the strictest privacy laws in Europe). It has been suggested that newspaper editors should be required not to publish paparazzi pictures, so deterring such photographers from intruding into, and endangering, the lives of others abroad. This is unrealistic. The paparazzi would be only mildly inconvenienced by the loss of the market in the United Kingdom for pictures

which have a worldwide appeal. But it is also unsustainable in principle. Are we really to impose a statutory ban on photographs being published in the United Kingdom because of the circumstances in which they were obtained, even when the photographs were taken in a public place, and when the material may be seen by anyone with access to CNN television or a magazine such as *Paris Match*?

Nor is the case made out for enactment of a general right to privacy, prohibiting the publication of true information which concerns a matter which the individual wishes to keep confidential. The United Kingdom press, with editors subject to powerful laws relating to contempt of court, obscenity, breach of confidence, trespass, and libel, is one of the most strictly regulated in the Western world. There are already legal remedies for most serious invasions of privacy.

The press is also subject to the jurisdiction of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), a self-regulating authority which works effectively to apply a code which prohibits intrusions into, and the publication of matters relating to, a person's private life except where this can be justified in the public interest.

Whether the public interest in a story outweighs the privacy of an individual is a difficult and sensitive issue. Other than in extreme circumstances, the law should leave such questions to be resolved by a self-regulating body composed of people with experience of the media as well as independent persons, rather than the courts.

Statutory regulation is unnecessary in this context for a further reason. The Government plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Article 8 guarantees the right to private life. But any complaint about an invasion of privacy needs to be considered by reference also to Article 10, which protects freedom of expression.

Maintaining a proper balance between these competing interests is not easy. Once the Convention is incorporated, the courts will be able to consider, on specific facts, whether the common law, and the rulings of the PCC, provide adequate safeguards, having regard to the importance of free speech.

Hard cases make bad law. The very worst type of law is that conceived as an emotional response to tragic events. Politicians should resist the temptation to legislate as a response to the death of the Princess.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID
PANICK QC

Protection from Harassment Act 1997 IN FORCE FROM JUNE 16

SECTION 2 makes harassment on two occasions a criminal offence. The sentence is up to six months' imprisonment and a restraining order.

□ S4 makes causing a fear of violence on two occasions a criminal offence, sentence up to five years' jail and a restraining order.

□ S5 allows criminal courts to

make a restraining order after a conviction under s2 or 4. Breach of the order is punishable with up to five years' imprisonment.

□ S3(1) & (2) allow civil courts to make injunctions preventing future harassment.

NOT YET IN FORCE

SECTIONS 3(3) to 3(9) makes breach of an anti-harassment injunction a criminal offence, carrying a sentence of up to five years' jail, also introduces a police power of arrest.

Solicitors advance

CITY lawyers are used to American firms invading their territory by establishing UK practices and poaching high-flying British partners. But last week they began a new invasion — of the courts.

Arthur Marriott, QC, the British head of the New York firm Debevoise & Plimpton's London arbitration unit, has become the first of two solicitors to be appointed part-time deputy High Court judges.

Mr Marriott and Lawrence Collins, QC, Herbert Smith's head of litigation and arbitration, joined the elite band of 200 barrister deputy High Court judges. Their appointment as the first practising solicitors qualified to sit as judges in the High Court mark a second landmark for both men.

Earlier this year they became the first solicitors to be invited to take silk — a move that paved the way for last week's appointments, which

are by invitation only and, according to the Lord Chancellor's Department, "are made from among the ranks of the most experienced and able practitioners". The two join Mr Justice Sachs, a full-time High Court judge, as the High Court's only solicitor judges.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said last week that he wanted to "open up the ranks of the higher judiciary".

Last respects
A SOMBRE atmosphere prevailed in London's legal square mile last week. Befitting the mood of the nation in the run-up to the Princess of Wales's funeral on Saturday, Union Flags fluttered at half-mast above the Royal Courts of Justice in The Strand and at the Law Society's headquarters in Chancery Lane. The Inns of Court were quiet, as they usually are at this time of the year. The Lord Chancellor

also advised courts sitting on Saturday to observe the one minute's silence.

Open season

THE NEW Open University first law course, set up with the College of Law, looks like being a hit not just with UK students but also with those on the Continent, for whom places have been specifically reserved.



Slapper: registrations rising

Dr Gary Slapper, the programme's new director, says registrations are rising so quickly that the course may also be run in Paris, Zurich and Brussels. "OU students usually go on to exercise great influence in their chosen fields," he says, "and that seems likely with law." The first course is due to start in February. For details, phone 01908 653449.

50 years on

THE Chief Justice of India, the Mr Justice J.S. Verma, will be expanding on the Indian legal experience in the 50 years since independence in a lecture at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in Russell Square, London tonight.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, will introduce his judicial colleague at the lecture, which has been jointly organised by the Institute and the Society for Advanced Legal Studies in celebration of 50 years of independence. Fifty years under the rule of law: The Indian Experience is open to all and starts at 5.30.

SCRIVENER

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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EMPLOYMENT to £Junior Partner
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PROJECT FINANCE/BANKING £US
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CORPORATE to £45,000
The market leading companies and institutions that this dynamic firm acts for believe their £20 partner size. Their talented corporate team now requires an equally dedicated lawyer with 1-2 years relevant exp to join their department where ability and commitment will be rewarded from the outset.

RETAIL PROPERTY £34-£70,000
Shopping about for the perfect job? This could be it. If you are a property lawyer (2-5 years exp) keen to work in a team instructed by the legal retail clients in the business, you will not just be the quality of work on offer, but you must have the personality and drive to act for household names, constantly involved in top rate deals.

CORPORATE to £50,000
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PROF INDEMNITY to £35,000
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY to £36,000
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To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Penny Tordrup, Sarah King or Simon Janion on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends 0181 674 3971), or write to us, in complete confidence, at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LB. (Fax 0171 404 8817).

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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS To £35,000
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PROPERTY FINANCE To £60,000
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PROF. INDEMNITY/CON. To £38,000
You will build yourself a very sound future by joining this well-known City firm, which has a cutting edge professional indemnity/construction group. Working for one of the leading plaintiffs in the country, you will gain the kind of experience that will set you up for life. If you have 0-2 years' ppe. Ref: T34744

PROPERTY To £65,000
Recent merger activity means that this Top 10 City firm now has one of the very biggest property practices around. You can enjoy the many benefits of this success if you have 1-4 years' ppe in general commercial property and development work. A property finance background is welcome. Ref: T30793

NON FEE EARNING To £Highly Competitive
Nowhere is the booming economy more evident than on the exchanges, making banking lawyers who can assist others with information and support very prized commodities. This excellent Top 10 firm needs a US-qualified securities lawyer and a knowledgeable capital markets lawyer, both with 1+ years' ppe. Ref: T36413

ACQUISITION FINANCE To £58,000
It's no wonder that some of the top finance lawyers in the City have joined this Top 10 firm, as it offers them the chance to enjoy innovative and challenging work for the sector's leading clients. Great prospects are guaranteed to a new acquisition leveraged finance lawyer with 4-5 years' ppe. Ref: T42626

TAX To £65,000
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PROPERTY FINANCE To £45,000
There are few better firms at which to gain top-notch property finance experience than this leading London practice, which has long been acknowledged as a market-leader in the field. This represents an excellent career move for a junior lawyer with some securities experience. Ref: T38113

BANKING Germany To ££x pot
Germany is becoming a crucial market for English firms, which are up there competing with the best local firms for some of the most exciting legal work in Europe. This is a very good time to make a move out there if you are a 1-3 year qualified banking lawyer with language skills. Ref: T36425

OIL/GAS US FIRM To £Premium City
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FINANCIAL SERVICES To £55,000
There are few better practice areas right now than financial services, as London's dominance of the international market continues. All firms are trying to get in on the act, but this Top 10 firm is well established as a market leader. Real progression for a lawyer with regulatory experience and 2-4 years' ppe. Ref: T42595

TELECOMS To £57,000
Telecoms is fast becoming THE practice area to be in and this Top 10 City firm recognises it. If you have 2-4 years' ppe, you are in a very strong position to move jobs on very good terms, and this firm can offer unbeatable terms. Will also consider experienced foreign qualified lawyers. Ref: T40812



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It is our intention to hold interviews in the week beginning 27 October 1997.

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Rises and falls in the housing market have brought problems for solicitors. Now they have some good news about claims from lenders who lost out

Wanda Barry welcomes a ruling that solicitors cannot be made responsible for lenders' losses

The revival of the property market brings chastening memories for many solicitors. In the late 1980s, when the market collapsed, many building societies and others who had lent enthusiastically in the boom years were left unable to recover sums due under their mortgages when borrowers defaulted. This sparked a flood of claims against solicitors as lenders sought alternative means of recovering their losses. Various adverse court rulings left the profession feeling that it was being made the scapegoat by an industry all too eager to lend to almost anyone who could fill in an application form, on the basis that property prices would continue to rise. If a borrower defaulted, the mortgaged property could be sold to recover the debt.

But a recent Court of Appeal decision in *National Home Loans Corporation v Giffen Couch & Archer* has, for the time being, put an end to hundreds of actions pending in the courts and lifted a multimillion-pound bill for the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF).

The case concerned the information that solicitors should have provided about their client-borrowers to the mortgage company. National Home Loans Corporation said that its solicitors had not informed it that the borrowers, to whom it had offered a loan by way

Risk returns to its rightful owner

of remortgage, were in arrears with their existing mortgage. NHL had not known about the arrears because it had not carried out the usual inquiries. In the late 1980s, NHL adopted a "self-certification" policy under which it allowed borrowers to sign a declaration that they were not in arrears with their existing mortgage and did not obtain independent confirmation. It was a policy aimed at increasing market share.

The borrowers defaulted and NHL eventually realised its security was suffering a loss because of the fall in the value of the property. It sued for and recovered that loss from the solicitors, who were found negligent in not reporting the arrears.

At the original hearing, although the judge accepted that the solicitors had complied with NHL's written instructions, he found them in breach of a wider, general duty to report the arrears. He found that

NHL's self-certification policy was not negligent, although it might have been imprudent.

The decision created widespread concern within the profession. Its effect was that solicitors could not rely on the lender's written instructions to identify matters that needed to be reported. Even if they complied, they could be held liable for not reporting facts that the lender had not identified as being relevant.

Solicitors had to place themselves in the position of a lender to decide what might be relevant to a lending decision. However, solicitors cannot be expected to know, beyond matters of title, what a lender might consider relevant.

One of the ironies of the judgment was that, in performing this exercise, the solicitors placed themselves in the position of the imprudent, albeit not negligent, lender, as

in this case, they would be found liable to the lender; solicitors became underwriters of the losses suffered by lenders who adopted risky lending policies, in order to increase their market share.

The Court of Appeal has now reversed the decision, finding that the judge had overlooked the principle that the extent of the duty of a solicitor depends on the terms of the retainer. Any implied duty must be related to what the solicitor has been instructed to do.

NHL provided detailed instructions specifying the things it wanted to know. NHL, as an experienced commercial lender, was best placed to instruct its solicitors on any facts it considered relevant to its decision to lend. NHL had made no inquiry about the conduct of the borrowers' existing mortgage and, therefore, it was not a matter that could be said to have been relevant to its decision. The Court of Appeal decision is a

victory for common sense. It recognises that solicitors are not lenders and it has, quite properly, restored to the lender responsibility for investigating the financial position of the borrower and for informing its solicitors of factors it considers relevant to its lending decision. What may be relevant to one lender will not necessarily be relevant to another, as lenders adopt different policies and market different products.

The decision brings to a halt the substantial number of pending actions brought by NHL and other lenders on the same allegation, and comes as good news to solicitors. Hopefully, it will mark the beginning of the end of the bombardment of claims by lenders against solicitors as lenders face up to the hard, but obvious, fact that as commercial organisations, they must bear responsibility for the losses they incurred at the end of the property boom. In reality such losses were a result of risky lending policies, economic hardship suffered by borrowers and the property market crash.

The Court of Appeal's message could not have been more timely as, after a brief abandonment, some lenders begin again to offer self-certified loans and loans to those with poor credit histories.

The author is a solicitor with Mills & Reeve.

Paying attention to negligence

Litigation against professionals has increased, reports Edward Fennell

Bad news has been greeting solicitors arriving home from their holidays — their contributions to the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) must rise sharply. The fund provides compulsory insurance cover for the profession and many firms are having to increase their contributions by more than 50 per cent in order to meet a multimillion-pound shortfall.

But the solicitors are not the only group to face growing claims over professional negligence and there is now an increasingly high profile niche practice for lawyers acting for (and against) other professionals caught up in these cases. Paul Haggett of Salmon Burges, a Bristol firm, believes that solicitors have come rather later into the firing line. He says: "Accountants went through a difficult time in the early Nineties and so did valuers. Now it's the time for the solicitors."

Mr Haggett normally acts on behalf of plaintiffs in these cases but colleagues elsewhere in the firm act for defendants. Most of the best-known professional negligence practitioners are defendant-based and usually their work is linked to insurance practices. It is the insurance funds which, as the SIF case illustrates, pick up the tab for a professional's mistake and they are determined not to be taken for a ride.

Chris Lowney, an insurance specialist with Fishburn Boxer says: "I wouldn't suggest that the professions have become more incompetent. But in the aftermath of the recession there was a scattergun approach by plaintiffs who had suffered a loss. They were keen to sue everyone in sight."

Fishburn Boxer operates as the nominated lawyer for the RIBA Insurance Scheme, the architects' equivalent of the SIF. Mr Lowney's experience is that

when a building deal, for example, goes wrong, the plaintiff will move against all the professionals — architects, surveyors, valuers and engineers — and then sit back and let them argue it out between themselves.

Identifying negligence is no easy task, so it is no wonder that demand for lawyers has multiplied in the corporate field. As Mr Lowney points out, however, there is no highly active "plaintiff bar" in the UK (as there is in the US) and the legal aid system tends to put barriers in front of what might be regarded as "trivial cases" launched by individuals. Mr Lowney says: "So far we have been saved from the worst excesses of the American experience."

Even so, many lawyers involved in this work will admit that the commercial pressures under which professionals work today have played a big part in the growth of litigation. John Hall, an insurance specialist with Cameron McKenna, acknowledges that in the field of valuation, there is a lot of "sloppy work". However, the rise of the property market from the 1970s onwards meant that these shortcomings were not exposed until the property crash of the early 1990s. Similarly, the competition for conveyancing work among solicitors meant that corners were cut in the early Nineties, with the inevitable consequences now seen in the SIF's shortfall in funds.

But as Julian Randall of Barlow Lyde and Gilbert, probably the leading firm nationally in professional negligence, points out, the expectations placed on professionals to "get it right" are sometimes unreasonable. "If a fraudster is determined to deceive his accountants it is very hard to stop him. And yet if the company then goes bust the accountant is expected to carry the can."



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The substantial legal team within this well-known UK bank now seeks an additional litigator with good working and practical knowledge of High Court/County Court procedure, an ability to deal with different stages of litigation and an aptitude for researching cases and often complex points of law. Rare opportunity to work on very broad range of litigation matters in an in-house team. As this is a large department, support and back up are exceptional. Legal Executives considered. Ref: T12148.G.

INVESTMENT BANK

Corporate Finance

Leading American bank now seeks lawyers with accountancy or financial backgrounds to take on a role in corporate finance. The opportunities for career development on the commercial side are excellent as well as the rewards. This is one of the leading players in corporate finance and offers an opportunity not to be missed. Ref: T12158.H.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

2 to 5 Years Qualified

A major US firm with significant presence in London, (over twenty five offices) and particular strengths on the finance and corporate side is actively recruiting lawyers to handle acquisitions and disposals, investment fund work, issues and privatisations. Salaries are much higher than those offered by UK firms and are on a level with New York. The practice will look at candidates from top regional firms as well as the City. Exciting opportunity. Ref: T12152.E.

CAPITAL MARKETS

4 Years + Qualified

A major investment bank with a significant presence in London is now looking for a capital markets lawyer to help develop the capital markets function. Candidates should relish the opportunity to be in a position of responsibility and to co-ordinate this part of the bank's activities. Work will involve emerging markets, bond trading, derivatives etc. Must have relevant experience gained from either private practice or another well regarded investment bank. Ref: T12042.E.

BANKING

2 to 5 Years Qualified

Having already successfully recruited a number of solicitors from leading London and other international law firms, this top five Australian practice with over 150 partners is seeking three further associates to handle general banking, project finance and capital markets work. The practice is regarded as one of the premier banking practices and acts for governments, banks and blue chip corporations on transactions throughout the Southern Hemisphere. Ref: T1223.D.

CORPORATE

1 to 6 Years Qualified

We have a number of instructions from the top Australian law firms who are seeking to recruit lawyers from leading London law firms. Applicants should either be Australians or New Zealanders seeking to return or UK lawyers with pristine academics who are prepared to commit to working in Sydney for a minimum of three years. Applicants would be expected to start in late December or early January (our winter/Sydney's summer). Ref: T11692.D.

NON-CONTENTIOUS CONSTRUCTION

Hong Kong

Established office of a leading City firm now requires a senior solicitor with at least five years' post qualification experience of non-contentious construction and proven marketing skills which are required to lead and develop the construction team based in Hong Kong. The firm envisages partnership within a very short period of time. You are required to be admitted in Hong Kong in due course. Ref: T12057.C.

INSOLVENCY

HQ to 3 Years Qualified

An upsurge in the number of insolvency transactions across the country has meant that this top 10 City firm now seeks a further junior insolvency lawyer. Both those with contentious and non-contentious experience would be of interest and the firm encourages applicants from those with smaller firm backgrounds. The department excels in its very successful training programme and working environment. Ref: T6783.G.

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An acknowledged leader in the IT sector, our client is an international information technology company specialising in systems integration and services. It also provides its customers with a wide range of world class hardware and software products.

Its key business is one of the world's largest and most competitive systems integration businesses with a tight focus on solutions for companies in the UK and European region. There is a requirement for a Legal Director for this business unit to build and manage a legal team with both domestic and pan-European responsibilities.

This is a unique opportunity to develop the role itself and the legal department's relationship with the wider business. To meet our clients' expectations, you must be pro-active and a natural communicator with excellent

commercial and legal skills. You will preferably have at least 10 years' post qualification experience gained largely in one of the major IT telecoms or electronics companies where you will have had responsibility for a team of legal advisers.

You will enjoy working in a team environment with challenging senior managerial responsibility for the legal processes of a business that involves high value, complex contracting for diverse business environments.

If you have the skills, desire and experience to take advantage of this exciting opportunity, then please send your CV together with contact and salary details in complete confidence to Daniel Richards at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN, fax 0171 831 6662, or telephone him on 0171 269 2234.

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Commercial Lawyer

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The Wellcome Trust currently spends some £250 million on research every year — laying the foundations for the healthcare advances of the next century and helping to maintain the UK's reputation as one of the world's leading scientific nations.

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The Trust now requires a junior lawyer to work with the Head of Legal Services, dealing with a wide range of issues including drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, co-ordinating contact with the external legal advisers and ensuring that the Trust is legally protected in its activities.

Your profile:

- 1-3 years post qualification commercial, charitable or non-contentious intellectual property experience gained either in private practice or in-house.
- Experience of applying legal expertise to a range of business and legal problems.
- Strong analytical communication and interpersonal skills.

To find out more about this opportunity to work for a unique organisation, please contact Catherine Brown or Dan Richards, the exclusively retained consultants for this assignment, on 0171 269 2484 or send them your curriculum vitae to Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN. Fax 0171 831 6662.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE & IN-HOUSE

CORPORATE RECOVERY

Market leading corporate recovery group at top City firm seeks 2-3 year qualified insolvency lawyer. You need to be efficient, ambitious and have experience of rescues, restructurings, administrations, etc., to join this dynamic department. If you welcome high levels of responsibility and the opportunity to travel we would like to hear from you. (Ref.20120)

IN-HOUSE IT & SYSTEMS

International bank with strong European business seeks IT lawyer to work in a specialist team supporting this part of the business. You will join a team with a high profile internally. You will ideally be 3-5 years qualified with an in depth knowledge of the technical aspects and commercial demands of the IT sector. Wide range of work, which will include software development, acquisitions and outsourcing. Experience with an end-user or supplier preferred. (Ref.20214)

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT

This is a clearly defined role for a 5 year plus qualified solicitor to act as number two to the lead employment lawyer at this top 20 City firm. The firm is growing at a steady pace and enjoys a leading position in the London corporate and financial markets. Working with other talented lawyers on high profile work you will be assured of a supportive environment with excellent prospects. (Ref.10446)

IT

Major City firm with rapidly growing IT presence seeks 2-4 year IT lawyer to join young, dynamic and highly successful team. With broad experience in the IT sector, you need to have demonstrable commercial acumen and the ability to play a lead role on major transactions. Apply if you are enthusiastic and comfortable working in a demanding environment. (Ref.19048)

EC COMPETITION

Unique City practice with enviable blue chip corporate connections seeks 2-3 year qualified lawyer with EC Competition experience to join growing and dynamic corporate/commercial department. An excellent opportunity for you to make your mark if you are a highly talented lawyer with good experience in this sector. If you are a legal ahead, this will be the ideal move. (Ref.10330)

TOP CITY

Market leading corporate recovery group at top City firm seeks 2-3 year qualified insolvency lawyer. You need to be efficient, ambitious and have experience of rescues, restructurings, administrations, etc., to join this dynamic department. If you welcome high levels of responsibility and the opportunity to travel we would like to hear from you. (Ref.20120)

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

This profitable, well managed medium sized City firm has significantly increased its market share of the highly competitive financial services sector, advising in particular on the regulatory framework governing commodities, securities and funds. Now seeking a dynamic lawyer with short term partnership aspirations and a complementary portfolio of contacts to slot into the team. (Ref.20533)

IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL

Highly successful logistics firm with household name customers seeks a 4-8 year qualified commercial lawyer, to act as the London based legal function. If you have good commercial experience, ideally including exposure to high value contracts negotiations, and the challenge of starting a department from scratch in a thriving business this will definitely be of interest. (Ref.20423)

PROPERTY FINANCE/RETRAINING

Pre-eminent City property department with unrivalled quality and flow of work is seeking 1-4 year qualified lawyers to specialise in innovative property finance work. Excellent academic essential. Due to unprecedented growth in this sector, candidates with good property/finance experience and a desire to be retained are actively encouraged to apply. (Ref.10076)

CONSTRUCTION

Central London firm with pre-eminent reputation in the property and construction sectors seeks 0-2 year qualified lawyer with non-contentious experience to join busy construction team. Building opportunity for a talented, commercially astute lawyer with a keen interest in complex transactions which have an increasingly international project flavour. (Ref.20252)

IN-HOUSE/JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

This successful and rapidly expanding software distribution and internet solutions provider is seeking a 0-2 year qualified company commercial lawyer to join the small legal team in Cambridge. You need to be practical and commercial with a strong personality to fit into this dynamic and innovative culture. With an excellent package of benefits on offer, why not explore this exciting opportunity to live and work outside London. (Ref.20523)

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

IN-HOUSE | PRACTICE

Intellectual Property

This major international services company seeks an information technology lawyer/Talent Attorney to join its international HQ and deal with all aspects of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, copyright and licensing agreements. Contact Rachael North. Ref:2534

Senior IT Counsel

This global information solutions company seeks a 5 to 7 year qualified IT lawyer to draft and negotiate an extensive range of IT contracts and provide advice on general commercial matters. Contact Rachael North. Ref:148RN

Company Commercial - HQ

A newly qualified lawyer is required for this well known information technology company to join a small team and assume a commercial role. Contact Rachael North. Ref:2946RN

Company/Commercial

This private international company seeks a 3 to 5 year qualified lawyer to join a small team. You will act as Company Secretary and Legal Adviser and deal with a varied workload including company/commercial law, contracts, employment, IP and property matters. Contact Rachael North. Ref:3008RN

Assistant Group Counsel

This highly successful US based multinational now has an opportunity for a lawyer with at least 5 years experience including some gained in or at least a qualification from the USA. The role encompasses Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Contact Naveen Tuil. Ref:114NT

Senior Information Technology

This major computer manufacturer requires a 5 to 10 year qualified lawyer from either private practice or in-house with international Information Technology experience. The position will involve some travel. Contact Naveen Tuil. Ref:494NT

Senior Legal Counsel

This leading French telecommunications company has an opportunity for a lawyer with some French to undertake an international role involving complex high value contracts. Contact Naveen Tuil. Ref:387NT

Banking/Finance/Capital Markets

We are pleased to announce that we have recently been joined by St. John Whirde, a banking solicitor from a major City firm. St. John is developing our existing business within this sector and we have opportunities for solicitors and barristers with relevant experience at all levels. Contact St. John Whirde. Ref:589AF

Paris

One of London's largest law firms wishes to supplement its existing team of commercial lawyers and is seeking a contracts litigator with at least 4 years experience. You will work as part of a focused team, initially dealing with the trial of a large commercial fraud claim but with the option to become involved in other cases. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref:29878K

East Midlands

This leading commercial law firm with a strong international practice is recruiting an employment solicitor with up to 5 years post qualification experience. You will be handling non-contentious work, mainly of a transactional nature. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref:568K

West End

This leading West End commercial practice is seeking a good company/commercial all-rounder with 2-5 years experience to undertake a broad range of corporate and commercial matters including some transactional work. Contact Jane Foster. Ref:1490JF

Banking/Capital Markets

This leading US practice now requires finance lawyers with City training and between 6 months and 4 years experience to undertake finance and/or derivatives related work. The quality of work and rewards offered will be excellent. Contact Jane Foster. Ref:2877JF

General Commercial

This specialist Indian firm with offices in 2 continents requires a newly to 3 year qualified lawyer with general commercial experience to work in Paris for their small, successful practice. Contact Daniel Lewis. Ref:1522DL

Securities Lawyer

This high-profile island practice wants to recruit a 5-8 year qualified off-shore specialist to undertake a mixture of securities/corporate finance transactions. Contact Daniel Lewis. Ref:2877DL

Commercial Litigation

This leading South East commercial practice has an opening for a commercial litigator, newly to 2 years qualified. This is an excellent opportunity for a young litigator to specialise early and establish a name for him or herself in quality property litigation. Contact Andre Field. Ref:589AF

Media Banking

Our client has a growing reputation in the media industry. With the expansion of the British film industry, an interesting niche is developing for a banking lawyer with between 3 and 5 years general experience who would like to specialise in media finance. Contact Andre Field. Ref:2117AF

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Information Technology - with a sound corporate law background and a focus on IT and non-contentious intellectual property matters.

Telecoms - with a broad background of advising on industry issues.

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Working directly into the two senior members of our small but high-profile Head Office Legal team, you will deal with a whole host of activities: day-to-day operational matters in the UK such as intellectual property, employment and litigation matters; strategic developments in new markets and distribution channels; drafting contracts and advising on legal issues - this is your chance to establish solid bedrock experience in a variety of commercial areas and use it to grow. There will be some overseas travel.

Recently qualified or ideally with a year's quality experience where you will have had some exposure to commercial, company, contractual and employment matters, you will be confident and quick to learn, yet full of ambition. As well as enthusiasm for the job, you will bring a mature personality to the team and a pragmatic commercial approach. Initiative will prove a key attribute.

We offer a good salary with generous benefits including non-contributory pension, corporate bonus and most of all, the chance to shine.

If you are ready to increase your profile, send your CV to: Mrs R. A. Williams, Personnel Department, PO Box 244, Southville, Bristol BS99 7UJ.

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Chambers Research

The new edition of our directory has had a greater impact than any previous edition. It has always been a benchmark. Research was its trademark. But this time the effort we put in is more noticeable. There are more research findings actually reproduced in the editorial Comments about firms and individuals are more precise, reflecting a subtler opinion of the market.

Readers have also reacted favourably to the fact that this edition has been audited by the British Market Research Bureau (BMRB). Our research team of a dozen solicitors and a barrister spent six months from January to June conducting lengthy interviews with practitioners and clients. Over 400 interviews in total were held, covering all the main areas of practice.

The BMRB executive who investigated us questioned our research team and carried out independent checks. He gave us a clean bill. "We have audited Chambers' research methods and found them well-suited to their aim, which is to identify the leading lawyers in all the main areas of law. Their methodology is valid, and the implementation is of a high professional standard."

The book is bigger and heavier than ever, with nearly 1,700 pages, and the price has gone up to £40, but with all the information it now contains we trust it will continue to be one of Hamrick's Top Ten best-sellers.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
Our legal directory is available from Birkbeck (01463-710 971)

INDUSTRY

Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

Property/Commercial: Derby
Luxury goods company needs solicitor c. 3-4 years' ppe for mixed role including commercial conveyancing, commercial contracts and some company secretarial.

Consumer Goods: N Home Counties
Household name requires lawyer min 5 years' ppe to be responsible for international commercial issues. Strong negotiating skills essential and French an advantage. Considerable travel.

Employment: Berkshire
Junior lawyer sought to handle non-contentious employment and personnel matters, some contentious employment work and general commercial/company secretarial.

PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray, Hedley Walsh

NORTH: Sukh Bhatta, Paul Thomas

Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Insurance Partner: City
Large, profitable and well managed City firm seeks insurance/insurance partner with substantial following to head an exciting new business project.

Head of London Office: US Firm
Prestigious US firm seeks a senior transactional solicitor (corporate and/or finance experience) for its London office. Practice inundated with work.

Construction: West End
Leading West End firm seeks non-contentious construction assistant with up to 5 years' ppe to handle high quality domestic and international work.

Company/Commercial Partner: City
Small, upmarket firm seeks senior solicitor for broad range of work for private company clients. Greater emphasis on law than on rainmaking.

Leisure: Crawley

Junior lawyer with good drafting/negotiating skills required to handle litigation and contractual matters. Would suit recently qualified solicitor/LEX.

Commercial: South East
Hi-tech company seeks lawyer 0-2 years' ppe. Workload will include contracts, employment and general commercial. Knowledge of IT law useful but not essential. An excellent first move into industry.

Property: Berkshire
Major residential company with large property portfolio including retail sites seeks lawyer 0-3 years' ppe to assist the Head of Legal with acquisitions/disposals and landlord and tenant management.

Commercial Litigation: City
Outstanding 0-2 year qualified commercial litigation assistant sought by 60 partner City firm. The group offers a broad range of work in a congenial atmosphere.

Commercial Property: City
Medium/large firm seeks 0-3 year qualified solicitor for broad caseload for hotels, pension funds and art and educational establishments.

Oil and Gas: US Firm
London office of leading Wall Street firm offers 3-7 year qualified solicitor oil and gas work of highest quality. Excellent partnership prospects.

Medical Negligence: Bristol
Partner designate position for specialist with min 3 years' plaintiff experience. Ideally you will be a member of AVMA and the Medical Negligence Panel.

Company/Commercial: Manchester
Major UK practice seeks a 1-3 year qualified solicitor for a mix of commercial work including agency, distribution agreements and competition matters.

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The purpose of your job will be to take responsibility for legal and commercial activities in existing interests, and to work closely with the MD and other managers in the evaluation and negotiation of acquisitions and farm-ins. The range of activities in which you will be involved will be unusually broad, and will include negotiations of joint venture and joint operating agreements, gas sales and transportation agreements as well as farm-ins and asset transactions. You will be involved in commercial decision-making, and the negotiation and conclusion of agreements.

We are therefore seeking candidates with previous legal/commercial experience with an oil and gas company. To be a candidate, you must have a law degree, and experience of negotiating agreements in the oil and gas industry. You must also have a good understanding of the business context of transactions and agreements, and we will consider candidates from the legal departments of oil/gas companies, or with experience in a Business Development, Asset Management or Commercial function.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package, and future opportunities to develop your career internationally. To apply, please write with full CV to: John Sears, Managing Director, SMCL Oil & Gas Limited, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP. Tel: 0171-222 7733. Fax: 0171 222 3445. E-mail: js@smcl.com

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DIRECTOR OF KNOW-HOW

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Our client is an international law firm based in the City which has seen its legal practice expand and develop, particularly in the last two years. Already possessing an established infrastructure of Training, Information and Legal Support Services, it has decided for strategic reasons to recruit a Director of Know-How who will report directly to the Practice Partner, a member of the London offices' four partner Management Committee.

The Director of Know-How will be responsible for the strategic management and development of the London office's precedents and know-how, and will also manage the firm's Professional Support Lawyers, setting the strategy and objectives of that team. The individual will be expected to draft precedents and practice notes, and to contribute to the London office's internal and external publications. He or she will also co-ordinate the firm's response to changes and prospective changes in English and UK law and deliver presentations, both internally and to clients.

The role will involve regular contact with partners and with colleague Directors of Library & Information Services and of Training, as well as liaison with the firm's International Know-How Centre.

The ideal candidate will be a high calibre lawyer with a corporate/commercial background and experience of practice up to a senior level. Preference may well be given to those with previous experience as professional support lawyers. Success in this challenging "front-line" role will require drive, vision and considerable management expertise. Excellent communication skills and a practical, business-like approach are essential, as is a real interest in the application of advanced IT systems in the legal environment.

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CO/COM c.3yrs International PR co, a leader in its field, seeks 1st lawyer to join young, dynamic team. Rare opening for outgoing lawyer looking for commercial exposure in upbeat environment.

FUND MANAGEMENT 3-5yrs City trained financial services lawyer to join funds arm of leading investment bank. Varied, fast-paced, superb prospects & package.

CORP FINANCE 2-4 & 5-8yrs High profile global investment bank seeks two City trained corporate finance lawyers for front line transactional roles.

FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS Bright lawyer sought by City Regulator to handle financial investigations & disciplinary proceedings. Regulatory or banking litigation experience would be ideal. Salary c. £35k.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 1-3yrs Marvellous opportunity for IP lawyer to join established legal team in blue chip co, carrying out a variety of trademark, copyright & brands work. Great first in-house move.

COMMERCIAL c.5yrs North West - Great opportunity for senior co/comm lawyer with experience of competition and IP law to join blue chip company in international 'hands on' role.

I.T. COMPANY 3yrs+N. London - Major IT co seeks experienced IT lawyer to advise upon systems integration or facilities management agreements. Position initially offered on a contract basis with good prospects of becoming long term/permanent.

CONSTRUCTION c.2yrs Midlands - Household name co. seeks non-contentious lawyer to join established team, handling full range of construction work.

COMMERCIAL 3-5yrs M4 Corridor - Dynamic, fast expanding high-tech company seeks lawyer for Europe wide role handling wide range of commercial contracts. Good prospects to grow with co.

COMMERCIAL LIT NO-2yrs A fantastic opportunity for a bright lawyer to join this thriving London firm to undertake a genuine mix of top quality litigation.

COMMERCIAL/IT NO-2yrs Dynamic firm seeks ambitious junior lawyer for friendly team - wide range of commercial contracts often involving media/IP clients.

CORPORATE TAX Partnership City firm offers an exciting role for a high calibre lawyer establishing and developing a tax team to complement a thriving corporate dept. Superb package.

CORPORATE/MEDIA 18mths-3yrs Rare opportunity in this niche media firm offering a wide range of high quality corporate work (including M&A and venture capital) for high profile media clients.

COMMERCIAL LIT 1-3 yrs Excellent career move to progressive medium-sized firm to handle an unusually varied workload including international banking & insolvency litigation. Genuine opportunities for overseas travel.

TAX/MEDIA 2-5 yrs Rare opportunity for ambitious tax lawyer seeking good quality of life move in popular W. End firm to work on behalf of interesting media client base. Superb prospects.

KNOW-HOW To £60k New role for Employment lawyer 5 yrs + ppe to exchange fee-earning work for support function in in progressive City practice.

PROPERTY FINANCE Package + car New entrepreneurial practice seeks Property Finance lawyer 2-6yrs ppe to undertake top quality work. Excellent package & prospects.

INFO. TECHNOLOGY 2-5 yrs If you are a strong commercial lawyer wishing to specialise in IT law our client, a leader in this field, offers an excellent opportunity to undertake first class quality work with good training.

Please contact Caroline Fish or Sophie Brooks (London), Liz Nezer (Regions) or Bridget Burdon (In-House) on 0171 430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax 0171 831 4186.

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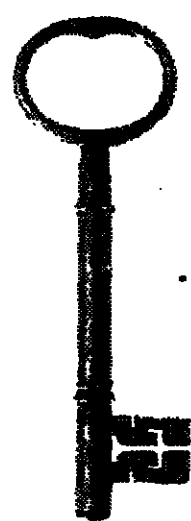
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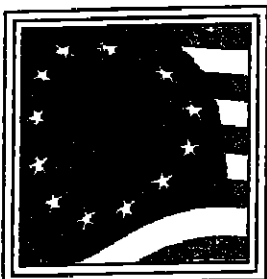
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The worst day of my career as an umpire

In the second extract from his new autobiography Dickie Bird recalls with a shudder the disastrous Saturday of the 1980 Centenary Test at Lord's

What should have been one of the proudest occasions in my career provided me, instead, with the worst day of my life as an umpire. The date is engraved on my mind — Saturday August 30, 1980, the third day of the Centenary Test between England and Australia at Lord's.

The problems resulted from the fact that on the Friday we had torrential rain. Although we played for most of that Friday, later on the ground was awash as the heavens opened. Spectators were actually diving in and swimming at the Tavern side of the ground.

It was still chucking it down when we arrived early on the Saturday morning, but it finally stopped at about 9.30. The clouds began to part to reveal lovely blue sky, and it was a glorious day from then on. However, it was impossible to resume play before lunch because the lower end of the square down to the Tavern was absolutely saturated. The area was not only wet, but muddy as well, which made it extremely dangerous, and if somebody had been badly injured because we had played on it, everyone would have blamed the umpires.

One way we could have made an earlier start was to put matting on the problem area, and Conny and I suggested this to the two captains, Ian Botham and Greg Chappell. Greg said, "It will help you two lads to get the game started then I will go along with that," but Both disagreed, believing his players might receive a serious injury if their spikes got caught in the matting. So the idea was scotched, delaying us further. There was nothing for it but to keep making inspections and hoping that conditions would improve quickly.

Meanwhile, the crowd was becoming more and more restless, and hurred abuse at us, which was very unsettling and slightly unnerving. We bit our tongues, took everything that was thrown at us, and did all in our power to get the game going as soon as we possibly could. Eventually we said to the two captains, "Come on, lads, we can't keep going on like this, we've got to make a start. Let's give it a go in another 15 minutes." Billy Griffith, who was then president of MCC

and a great man for cricket, had been in and out of the dressing-room all day, and he agreed that we should give it a try.

We had just arrived at that decision when the trouble started. It was 3.30 and I thought we had done well to be able to resume play 15 minutes after that, considering the amount of water that had been on the ground.

I was still out in the middle with the groundsman, Jim Fairbrother, when I noticed that there appeared to be a bit of a rumpus around the members' enclosure, although at the time I was not sure what was going on. I walked back into the pavilion a few minutes later with the crowd still shouting abuse at me, but I was never physically assaulted.

I was deeply shocked when I reached the dressing-room and saw the state of David Constant. He was very dishevelled and he was in a state of distress. He told me that he had been grabbed by the tie and pushed and jostled in an ugly scene that was more reminiscent of a football terrace than the members' enclosure at Lord's. He was clearly very dispirited and depressed, and when I heard his story I felt the same. It hurt me that so much abuse had been directed at me, but even that was nothing compared to what Conny had suffered. We both sat there with tears in our eyes. I have never experienced anything like that anywhere in the world, not even at Headingley.

I became angrier still when I read the newspapers the following morning. A typical report claimed, "In the Long Room at Lord's, the temple of cricket, Ian Botham and Dickie Bird were both struck on the head in angry scuffles as frustrated spectators waited for play to begin in the rain-battered Centenary Test."

That is absolute rubbish. I was never struck. I was never manhandled. Nobody came to check the facts with me. Writing in *The Sunday Times*, Robin Marlar was very critical, and very wrong, alleging, "It is my opinion that the fussiness of the two umpires, Bird and Constant, was wholly responsible for the ugly mood which developed. There was no justification for their concern with the bowlers' run-up at the



The captains and umpires consult — left to right, Botham, Chappell, Bird and Constant

Pavilion End, nor for the area 20 yards towards the Tavern."

Mr Marlar does not know what he is talking about in this instance. Just take note of what the two captains had to say.

First of all, Greg Chappell: "When we arrived early in the morning for practice, the covers were down on the best part, but elsewhere on the square it was uncovered and very wet. If you had walked on those old wickets you would have been bogged down ankle-deep. It certainly was not fit for play then. We saw it again, with the umpires, at about 3.30, and at that stage it was fairly playable."

He added: "The umpires were keen to start. I felt we were let down by the groundsman for not covering the square in advance and not doing enough to dry it out. If there had been more sawdust and more work we could probably have started two hours earlier."

Botham said, "When we first saw it, it was a mudbath, and obviously unplayable for quite some time. At 3.30 the outfield was quite a lot better, but the square was still unfit. It was muddy. Even when we started, a cricket boot still made a heavy impression through the sawdust and mud. You cannot blame the umpires. It was a cock-up and

people are trying to make them the scapegoats."

It was Chappell who reported the incident in the members' enclosure to Jack Bailey, the MCC secretary, and pointed out two alleged culprits. However, after taking them to his office, Bailey said he was satisfied that they were either the wrong people, or that nothing serious had taken place. "I am convinced," Bailey said, "that these two people did not assault anybody. At the time members were getting slightly heated and frustrated with waiting. I can only suppose that a lot of them were around and pushing forward."



Constant finds a moment for reflection in the heat of battle

CENTENARY TEAMS

ENGLAND
Graham Gooch (Essex)
Geoffrey Boycott (Yorkshire)
Bill Athey (Yorkshire)
David Gower (Leicestershire)
Mike Gatting (Middlesex)
Ian Botham (Somerset)
Peter Willey (Northamptonshire)
David Bairstow (Yorkshire)
John Emburey (Middlesex)
Chris Old (Yorkshire)
Mike Hendrick (Derbyshire)

AUSTRALIA
Bruce Laird (Western Australia)
Graeme Wood (Western Australia)
Greg Chappell (Queensland)
Kim Hughes (Western Australia)
Graham Yallop (Victoria)
Allan Border (New South Wales)
Rodney Marsh (Western Australia)
Dennis Lillee (Western Australia)
Ashley Mallett (South Australia)
Ray Bright (Victoria)
Len Pascoe (New South Wales)

I felt that Boycott saved that Test for England, however. He made a magnificent unbeaten 120 after the first three wickets had fallen quite cheaply, and it is my opinion that Australia would have won if they had got him out. Dennis Lillee obviously agreed with me. After he had whipped out the first three England batsmen he said to me, "If I get your mate Boycott out, Dickie, you'll be back up that motorway to Yorkshire in next to no time." Yet the crowd booed Boycott and the press crucified him.

His was one of three magnificent centuries in that match, which, after all the trouble, developed into a very good Test. Kim Hughes made 117 and Graeme Wood 112 for the Aussies. There was also some fine bowling from Lillee (four for 43 in the first innings) and Len Pascoe (five for 59), and England's Chris Old (three for 91 and three for 47).

If we could turn the clock back, knowing what we know now, Conny and I might well say, this is a very special occasion, so we're going to play, and that's it. If a player gets injured, he gets injured. That's the risk, and we have to take the responsibility. But it was a very sad day all round, and it included the blackest hour of my career.

There was one touching moment after the match when Dennis Lillee came up to me with a parcel. He said: "This is for you, Dickie, but I don't want you to open it until you

get home." I nursed it carefully all the way back to Barnsley and as soon as I got inside my cottage I tore off the wrapping. Inside I found Lillee's official touring tie with a message which read: "Going back to Australia with an open-neck shirt. You can have my tie because you are a great guy and we all think you are a fair umpire." It was signed "Dennis Lillee". Of all my mementoes, that tie and that message are something I treasure as much as anything. It meant so much to me — coming from an Aussie!

Extracted from My Autobiography by Dickie Bird, published by Hodder and Stoughton on September 18 at £17.99.

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TOMORROW

Hilarious and hair-raising stories from my umpiring career

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand from a recent Gold Cup match produced one of the strangest results I have seen for a long time.

Dealer East	North-South game	IMPs
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98	98	
99	99	
100	100	

In one room East opened One Club, South passed and West responded One Spade. He then passed his partner's rebid of Two Clubs. North, in the protective seat was not well placed to take action. A diamond lead and club switch allowed East to finesse and play the queen of hearts. North won and continued clubs which allowed East time to discard the losing spade on a heart. Making 110 seemed an excellent result.

In the other room South didn't bid either and when West continued with Two Hearts over Two Clubs East understandably started with a high diamond rather than a club and the contract made.

Thus in both rooms North-South passed throughout with Six Diamonds a good contract on their cards. If they manage to get there after East has opened One Club and West has responded One Spade, the fortunate fall of the queen of spades provides the twelfth trick, to go with one heart and ten trump tricks.

However, say West leads a heart. Declarer wins and plays a spade to the nine. West switches to a trump. Now declarer ruffs a spade leaving himself with KJ8. If East follows small on the second round, declarer is still all right. West is certain to have started with five spades — with four he would have had longer hearts and so responded in that suit. Thus declarer can develop an extra spade by taking ruffing finesses through West's A Q 7.

□ The National Swiss Teams Final, held in Leeds at the weekend, was won by the Warwickshire team of John Collings, Martin Jones, Steve Green and Graham Link.

□ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181-942 0506.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Last minute

Grandmaster Michael Adams needed to win in the final round of this year's Smith & Williamson British championship at Hove in order to catch up to the leaders and force his way into the play-off. His opponent in this crucial game was grandmaster Tony Kosten. After a quiet opening, Adams succeeded in inflicting wide-ranging pawn weaknesses on the black camp, and then penetrated with a forceful sacrifice of rook for bishop, which Black declined. In spite of this, the crumbling black fortifications were no match for White's invading army.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Tony Kosten
Smith & Williamson British championship, August 1997

Ruy Lopez	
1	e4
2	Nf3
3	Bb5
4	Bxc6
5	O-O
6	Re1
7	Bb3
8	Nc3
9	d3
10	a3
11	Nc3
12	Nd5
13	Nxe7+
14	Bxc6
15	Nf4
16	c3
17	Bg5
18	Bd5
19	Nf5
20	Bx6
21	Qc3
22	g3
23	Kf2
24	Qc3
25	Bx4
26	Rxa4
	e5
	a6
	Nf6
	Bc7
	b5
	O-O
	c5
	Qd7
	Rae8
	Qa5
	Cas
	Bc5
	Nc6
	Bc8
	Kf8
	Nc8
	Gc7
	g4
	Rg8
	Ne6
	Ng5
	Rg6
	h4
	Bd6

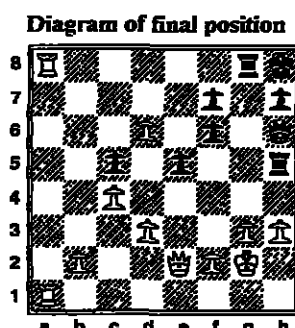


Diagram of final position

City chess challenge

On Thursday September 18 at the Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2, I shall be giving a charity chess display against a maximum of 50 opponents in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the Cancer Research Campaign. The event will be opened by The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor Alderman Sir Roger Cork at 4.30pm. To secure your table please call the organiser Michael Savory of Midland House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA (tel: 0171-260 5051, fax 0171-260 0592).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AZOTEA
a. An Aztec pyramid
b. A flat roof
c. Without roots

CURIAIRA
a. A canoe
b. A deadly poison
c. Matron in a nursery

FURIANT
a. A soldier ant
b. A type of gladiator
c. A fast dance

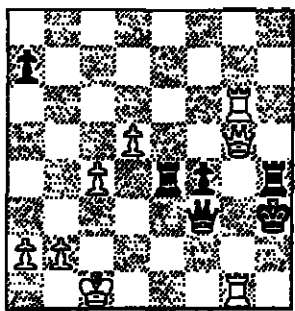
FUNKIA
a. A bolt-hole
b. A Japanese gambling game
c. A lily

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Cummings — Hinks-Edwards, Smith & Williamson British championship 1997. Having driven the black king all the way up the board, White has several good moves in this position. However, he chose an attractive continuation which won immediately. Can you see it?



Solution on page 46

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

For entry details you can either:

- TELEPHONE 0171 405 7273
- FAXBACK ON 0660 600667
- ACCESS THE INTERNET SITE ON <http://www.golfdays.co.uk/index.htm>

29 AUG NORWOOD INTERIORS BRADLEY HALL 130
G SMITH 32 G BALPH 34 C MCARDIAN 32 A PLENS 32

28 AUG PAUL & WILLIAMSON DUKES COURSE 123
G ROBERT 32 G CLOVE 35 J DUNN 38 J TOWNSEND 38

29 AUG J C RUMBOLD PLUMBING ABBOTSLEY 116
J RUMBOLD 38 M SMITH 38 M WINTER 38 C CROSS 38

29 AUG OCE CELTIC MANOR 106
A WARD 29 B LYLE 29 J HENDERSON 29 J ELEY 29

30 AUG THE WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY WALTON HALL 145
A RUTLAND 38 J ENGLAND 37 J BELLON 35 A HENDERSON 35

30 AUG NUCLEAR ELECTRIC SECKFORD HALL 130
A HENDALL 38 G GERRIDGE 33 J LAST 32 M TUFF 32

31 AUG THE WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY WALTON HALL 146
G HOLDRUP 38 A CROFTLEY 38 F BARTON 38 J WICK 38

1 SEP PRUDENTIAL - BACNE EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL 156
G HOLDRUP 38 M PERRY 41 M WEAVER 38 F PAMPER 37

1 SEP FRODOHAM GOLF CHILDREN'S CHARITY FRODOHAM 155
G PETER 38 G WINTER 38 L O'HARE 42 P BROWN 37

1 SEP HAROLD SHARP SON DAVYHULME PARK 124
G BRESTY G WINTER 38 T SWAN 38 S WILKINS 38 T LINDSEY 38

1 SEP BARCLAYS BANK PLC FOXHILLS 118
T THOMAS 28 D WATKINS 28 L ARNOLD 31 P BARRHAM 31

2 SEP ABE INSTRUMENTS & CONTROLS LTD SANDMARTINS 151
M SMITH 40 G WARD 38 P CROSS 40 P PERRY 35

2 SEP TREVOR JONES BRICKENDON GRANGE 146
T JONES 38 C CHATFIELD 38 P DUNN 37 W CHAUNY 38

2 SEP SERVICECOT INT. LTD WELCOMBE HOTEL 148
G DUNN 38 J SANDFORD 40 G CARTER 38 B TAYLOR 38

2 SEP HEALTHCALL GROUP PLC HANBURY MANOR 144
M HENCHY 38 M BENDALL 38 D CRAIG 37 A STRANDBERG 38

2 SEP THE PARAGON GROUP OF COMPANIES SEEDY HILL 140
A THORP 38 G SPURDIN 38 S BELL 38 M WILKINS 38

2 SEP BIC GROUP PLC FOXHILLS 133
D SHARP 38 G STUART 38 P CHAPMAN 38 S WATSON 37

2 SEP NAT WEST MORTGAGE SERVICES HILL VALLEY 129
J WARD 38 J BROWN 38 C PLAMMER 38 K HENDERSON 38

3 SEP NSG SERVICES GROUP PLC NORTHOP COUNTRY PARK 146
P GALLAGHER 29 B HALL 42 L O'HARE 40 V FORDE 35

3 SEP SPECTUS SYSTEMS LIMITED BREADSALL PHOENIX 126
J HANLON 37 D DANCE 37 D BEEF 37 D WINTER 34

Playwright brings back capital punishment

It's still early days in Tony Marchant's *Holding On* (BBC2), but one thing you can feel pretty certain about in this new eight-part drama about the grislier aspects of surviving in 1990s London is that the English Tourist Board won't be nagging Marchant for copies to use in its promotional "Visit Britain" campaigns.

Holding On is the television equivalent of a Leonard Cohen record — seductive, but depressing at the same time: television to commit suicide by. It will make all these country mice who trill about their untroubled green views trill that little more, though what they don't realise is that we Londoners actually regard uninterrupted green views as inhospitable deserts between one hubbub of activity and another — deserts which are made doubly inconvenient by the lack of passing taxis.

If you found *Short Cuts*, Robert Altman's mesmerising collage of

Los Angeles life, depressing, then you might do better to skip this series altogether. Along with *Short Cuts*, Marchant draws inspiration from two other portraits of cities in a state of Tom Wolfe's *Barbaric* of the *Vandites* and Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend* — only Marchant swaps Dickens's Thames for the London Underground, whose strap-hangers (hence *Holding On*) have been turned into zombies by years of abuse, injustice, complacency and indifference. And outside the Tube, life is often even worse.

As with *Short Cuts*, Marchant has assembled a cast of characters who collide and scatter like snooker balls, only to collide again later. TV execs, tax inspectors, temps and taxi drivers, and their lives are woven together like a plait.

In this opening episode Marchant pulls off the trick of giving us a tour of his broad tapestry without losing us in the maze of mini-plots that he has just

set up. The dialogue doesn't jar. There are none of the diamond geezers which serve as television shorthand for seedy London. Everyone seems ordinary, plausible, which is what gives the resulting chaos its power: something similar could be waiting for any one of us around the next corner.

All the cast here, although Phil Daniels — who must be glad to have found a new glow to bask in after loitering so long in the one from *Quadrophenia* — has been lucky to draw one of the more flamboyant roles. He plays Gary Ricker, a boozy, bed-hopping, Jack-the-Lad restaurant critic with a professionally unhelpful digestive problem. It's a role that underlines the power of Marchant's imagination since few real-life restaurant critics match such a description.

However, Marchant claims to have inserted colourful caricatures



Joe Joseph

from the London media scene into the text, so people will be trying to spot the real people behind the fiction: all you could say for certain is that Gary Ricker is not based on Andrew Lloyd-Webber's dining column in *The Daily Telegraph*.

The tone of *Holding On* was conveyed most tellingly the final sequence of last night's programme. A minicab driver, waiting for his client outside a

restaurant in a busy road, witnesses the murder in a telephone box of Sally Friel (Fleur Mould) — a young temp who is being sexually harassed by her boss and has just plucked up the courage to report him. She is stabbed repeatedly in the belly by Alan, a disturbed schizophrenic (Sean Gallagher) who has been released under the Care in the Community scheme (does that ring any bells in real life?) for want of either an empty hospital bed or a concerned enough doctor. What does the cabbie do? Chase after the murderer? Call the police? No, he slowly winds up his window. Then? He looks at the doors. It's not what you call an optimistic note. But, increasingly, an authentic one.

Listen to this snippet, for example: "It's the worst kind of murder," said Sarah. "It's the worst because if Nina and Jack had been murdered by a stranger, I could never wonder how come we were

at that place at that time. But to know that their dad quite deliberately did it is very, very difficult."

What's really depressing about Sarah Healey's misery is that she isn't but in Channel 4's *Citizen's Arrest*. Sarah's estranged husband, Dr Sukdev Sandhu, known as "Dave", murdered their children Nina, 4, and Jack, 3. He then jumped from a tower block to his own death. OK, it was in Sheffield, not Tony Marchant's London, but there are similar cases of murder followed by suicide involving children every six weeks somewhere in Britain.

Dave murdered the children while they were visiting. Sarah didn't want to stop her children visiting their father, but because of his history of psychiatric problems and of wife-beating, she wanted the visits supervised.

The courts didn't see it that way. If others won't watch over her, it's little wonder that more and more people decide to watch over themselves; and cabbies wind up their windows when they see a woman murdered in a phone box. You can't even stay at home, bolt the front door and watch *Mastermind* any more. But as a postscript to the show's 25-year reign, BBC1 brought us *Mastermind* — It's Started Now It's Finished, a documentary to mark its passing. It can be safer to let these things pass unexamined: scratching too deeply can make you wonder what you ever saw in it. Here, for example, is the secretary of the Mastermind Club, which contestants can join: "In 1990 I thought it would be interesting to find the profile of an interesting *Mastermind* contestant and I came up with someone who is not very interesting. I have to be honest. Well, now that you mention it...

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (72266)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (78247083)
9.05am Referendum Call: Scotland Edward Stourton chairs a live phone-in. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (8167118)
9.55am Kilroy (7) (5972441)
10.35am Change That (1062267)
11.00am News (7) regional news and weather (4334335)
11.05am The Really Useful Show (7) (9374354)
11.35am Room for Improvement (2945354)
12.00am News (7) regional news and weather (8604557)
12.05am Call My Bluff (9182248)
12.35am Going for a Song (9095800)
1.00am One O'Clock News (7) and weather (70731)
1.30am Regional News and weather (7) (1792335)
1.40am The Weather Show (87847248)
1.45am Neighbours (7) (7725828)
2.10am Quinny (7) (5944737)
3.00am Through the Keyhole (7346966)
3.25am Playdays (7) (7358731) 3.50am Peter Pan and the Pirates (7) (8671747) 4.10am Rugsby (7) (4165373) 4.35am Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars (7) (7) (8159712) 5.00am Newsround (7) (9561248) 5.10am Byker Grove (7) (7) (5450844)
5.35am Neighbours (7) (7) (641170)
6.00am Six O'Clock News and weather (793)
6.30am Regional News Magazine (373)
7.00am Holiday Memories New series. Zoe Ball and her father Johnny revisit Scar and Michael Parkinson returns to Scarborough, where he proposed to his wife Mary, a couple renew their wedding vows in Jamaica (7) (5847)
7.30am EastEnders All is not well in the Mitchell family (7) (557)
8.00am Vets in Practice Fiona and Trude face the task of informing dead owners their pets have cancer (1267)
8.30am Tiger Bay Both breaks shocking news to Sorry. Last in series (3002)
9.00am Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (2354)
9.30am Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown Weird TV adverts from around the world, revealing what Norwegians really think of the British; a wedding and a funeral (7) (43002) Wales: 9.30am Referendum '97: The Devolution Debates (523460) 10.30am Rory McGrath's Commercial Breakdown (72573) 10.50am Inside Story Special (3057712) 11.55am Film: Legal Eagles (438199) 1.45am Film: Fitzwilly (11584) 3.25am News Headlines and Weather (8676565)
10.00am Inside Story Special (7) (4158089)
11.05am Quigley Down Under (1990) starring Tom Selleck and Alan Rickman. An Australian western directed by Simon Winchester (924151)
1.00am Fitzwilly (1997) Comedy with Dick Evans. Directed by Delbert Mann (144132)
2.40am Weather (7393836)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a service of VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: Hardwick Hall (496280) 6.25am Overture: Dimanche en Anjou (4981118) 6.50am Rural Life: Image and Reality (5788118) 7.15am See Hear Breakfast News (7) (4829538) 7.30am Snurfs' Adventures (6910915) 7.55am Duke Slater (7) (5915793) 8.20am Cake Bake (7540248) 8.30am Rupert (7717538) 8.35am Teletubbies (1597053) 9.00am Harry and the Hendersons (2184151) 9.25am Power Moves: Gymnast (2910605) 9.30am See Hear (27054) 10.00am Teletubbies (22606)
10.00am Working Lunch (10286)
11.00am TUC Conference Live coverage of the conference, including the speech by the Archbishop of Canterbury (65335)
1.00pm Working Lunch Update (8328648)
1.10am The Craft Hour (4830824)
1.20am News (7) and weather (32374606)
2.15am TUC Conference Tony Blair's keynote speech (931644)
3.55am News (7) (6420712) 4.00am Ready, Steady, Cook (286) 4.30am Going, Going, Gone (6158083) 4.55am Esther: Come (399034) 5.30am Today's the Day (422)
6.00am The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Uncle Phil plans a lavish dinner party for his boss (7) (345847) WALES: 6.00am Heartbreak High (46877) 6.45am Soccer: FAW Invitation Cup (4261151) 9.00am Looking Good (4018)
6.25am Heartbreak High Students are spooked by a mysterious figure roaming the corridors (7) (645793)
7.10am The O Zone Elton John, Kylie Minogue and Louise talk about their new releases and future plans (350198)
7.30am Desperately Seeking Donna Documentary about singer Donna Lewis (199)
8.00am Return to the Home Front Anne McKeivitt sings the praises of cost-effective wooden houses (2/3) (8608)
8.30am Looking Good French women; hairstyles; transformations; high-street fashion (7) (1644)
9.00am Have I Got Old News for You (7) (4016)
9.30am Holding On (7) (48825)
10.20am Nation to Nation (799538)
10.30am Newsnight (7) (956172)
11.15am Graffiti: Counter Culture Work dilemmas (327557)
11.45am A Little Later with Jools Holland (7) (229977) 12.00am Weather (320594)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Sabrina (1954) (951488) 6.00pm The Delicate Delinquents (1989) (923733) 8.00pm The Man in the Moon (1967) (295558) 10.00pm Fatal Beauty (1987) (860712) 11.45pm Dirty Harry. Chevy Chase (1974) 1.45am The Great Escape (1963) 3.45am The Godfather (1972) (463043) 4.45am Dances with Wolves (1994) (413045) 4.45am Close

TNT
7.00pm Slingshot in the Rain (1982) (3727089) 7.15pm The Thin Man (1934) (657151) 7.30pm The Last of Mrs. Tichener (1957) (1533151) 7.30pm Travels with My Aunt (1972) (3257587) 8.00pm Close

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00pm Sports Centre (64118) 7.30pm World Wrestling (43625) 8.00pm V-Max (53509) 8.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 8.00pm Racing News (56462) 9.30pm Aerobics: Oz Style (14165) 10.00pm Spanish Football (91258) 10.30pm Aerobics: Oz Style (56836) 12.00pm Cricket (120712) 6.00pm Sports Centre (64118) 6.30pm Tennis Extra (4880) 7.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 7.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 8.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 8.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 9.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 9.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 10.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 10.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 11.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 11.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 12.00pm Sports Centre (44880)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00pm Aerobics: Oz Style (651374) 7.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 8.00pm Racing News (56462) 8.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 9.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 9.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 10.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 10.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 11.00pm Sports Centre (44880) 11.30pm Sports Centre (44880) 12.00pm Sports Centre (44880)

SKY SPORTS 3
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SKY SPORTS 5
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SKY SPORTS 6
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SKY SPORTS 7
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SKY SPORTS 10
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- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7735199)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (2181064)
9.55am Regional News (7) (1648825)
10.00am The Time, the Place (42490)
10.30am This Morning (18458928)
12.20pm Regional News (6893441)
12.30am ITN Lunchtime News (7) (9081606)
12.55am Shortland Street (7) (9099625)
1.25am Home and Away (58723386)
1.50am Remote Control Cooking (77631489)
2.20am Vanessa (75941170)
2.50am The Natural Health Show (6300199)
3.25am ITN News (7) (4320731)
3.55am Regional News (7) (4320002)
4.30am The Riddlers (1086248) 4.40am Wizardora (7812880) 4.50am Adventures of Paddington Bear (7818064) 4.00am Sylvester and Tweety Pie Mysteries (2152267) 4.15am Name That Tune! (4159712) 4.40am Knight School (7758199)
5.10am Relative Knowledge (2968880)
5.40am ITN Early Evening News (7) (891248)
6.00am Home and Away Shannon and Lachie put the fun back into their relationship (7) (489)
6.25am HTV Weather (688199)
6.30am The West Tonight (441)
7.00am Emmerdale Kim takes pleasure in turning down Lord Alex (7) (1165)
7.30am People and Pets Jenny Hull discovers a terrapin education centre (625)
8.00am The Bill Day and Blake are forced to release their prime suspect for a vicious sexual assault. Can they prove his guilt before he strikes again? (2/2) (7) (6335)
8.30am Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's The Wrong Man Paul Merton along to local police station to report a minor domestic incident (8170)
9.00am A Perfect World (1993) Clint Eastwood directs and co-stars in a melodrama about a hard-bitten convict (Kevin Costner) who breaks out of prison and takes a seven-year-old boy hostage as he makes his escape across country. Continues after the News (6441)
10.00am News at Ten (7) (97933)
10.30am Regional News (7) (370808)
10.40am A Perfect World Concludes (86794354)
12.20am Planet Mirth (3761300)
12.50am Short Story Cinema (3177788)
1.20am Late and Loud (5284132)
2.15am The Chart Show (7) (2614836)
3.00am Football Extra (7) (9392128)
3.55am World of Selling (7) (79145652)
4.00am Cool Vibes (58419279)
4.35am The Time, the Place (7) (31799652)
5.00am Hairloom (7) (71942)
5.30am News (48039)

EUROSPORT
7.00am Athletics (39712) 8.30am Events (39712) 10.30am Athletics (39712) 12.00am Touring Car (39712) 1.00pm Touring Car (39712) 2.00pm Touring Car (39712) 3.00pm Touring Car (39712) 4.00pm Touring Car (39712) 5.00pm Touring Car (39712) 6.00pm Touring Car (39712) 7.00pm Touring Car (39712) 8.00pm Touring Car (39712) 9.00pm Touring Car (39712) 10.00pm Touring Car (39712) 11.00pm Touring Car (39712) 12.00pm Touring Car (39712)

UK GOLD
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RACING 43

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SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 46

49ers unearth a golden prospect at quarterback



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1997

Rusedski's stock soars to new high



Rusedski: rises to No 11 in world rankings

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK is the city that never sleeps. Greg Rusedski's sweat-soaked shirt said as much. If Rusedski did manage to sleep before leaving here on Concorde yesterday, it is doubtful whether he could have had a dream more improbable than his true-life experience of the past fortnight.

Rusedski reached the final of the US Open at Flushing Meadows unseeded and having lost in the first round three years in succession. He won his first five matches this year, in his semi-final, recovered from two sets to one down, despite a throat infection.

On the eve of the tournament he supplanted Tim Henman as the British No 1 and now he can look towards

the indoor season, to which his game is suited, to become the first Briton to appear in the men's world top ten since the Association of Tennis Professionals' rankings were introduced in 1973. Yesterday he was confirmed as No 11, the highest position achieved by a player representing Great Britain since Roger Taylor occupied that spot 24 years ago.

For Rusedski that represents a rise of nine places. Henman has moved up one to No 20. Although eliminated in the second round here, Henman gained a significant number of points for defeating Thomas Muster, the No 5 seed, in the first round.

Not since Taylor was No 15 and Mark Cox No 19 in 1974 have two British men appeared in the top 20. Rusedski has passed so many mil-

stones in the past eight days that he might consider auditioning for the part of Dick Whittington in pantomime.

Last Monday he became the first player representing Great Britain for 13 years to reach the quarter-finals of the US Open men's singles. By Wednesday he had become the first British man for 20 years to make the semi-finals of a grand-slam singles event. By Saturday the Canadian-born player had turned 24, guaranteed his first appearance in the Grand Slam Cup and was standing on the threshold of providing his adopted nation with a men's singles grand-slam champion for the first time since Fred Perry in 1936.

Then, in the final, Rusedski set a world record for the speed of a service — 143mph. Pat Rafter, though, took the more tangible reward: the

MEN'S RANKINGS

1	P Sampras (US)	4,585pts
2	M Chang (US)	3,442
3	P Rafter (Aus)	2,889
4	V Kuznetsov (Rus)	2,853
5	C Moyik (Sp)	2,443
6	T Muster (Austria)	2,357
7	S Bruguera (Sp)	2,357
8	M Rios (Chile)	2,322
9	G Brastavice (Cro)	2,291
10	A Coria (Sp)	2,284
11	G Rusedski (GB)	2,236
12	G Kuerten (Ger)	2,230
13	J Bjorkman (Swe)	2,190
14	F Mantilla (Sp)	1,983
15	T Enqvist (Swe)	1,980
16	P Korda (Cz)	1,918
17	B Becker (Ger)	1,918
18	R Krajcek (Hot)	1,803
19	A Costa (Sp)	1,803
20	T Henman (GB)	1,539

trophy and winner's cheque for \$650,000 (around £400,000). The Australian's story was only slightly less remarkable than Rusedski's. Rafter, 24, arrived at the tournament uncertain which way a shoulder injury would

turn. Not that too many people were taking notice. Seeded No 13 and with only one tournament win during his professional career, Rafter was paid little attention until his fourth-round defeat of Andre Agassi.

Even then, Agassi's advice was not to back him. Could Rafter win the tournament, the former champion was asked. "No," was Agassi's unequivocal reply. By now, though, Rafter's shoulder was fine.

He had appeared in five finals this year, but lost them all. If that worried him, he disguised it well, rushing into a two-set lead in 60 minutes on Sunday. Rusedski's game was riddled with errors. Mainly it was his volleying and erratic first service that let him down, not his courage. Rusedski played boldly to the end. It

helped him to win the third set and spared him a 4-1 deficit in the fourth. He pulled back to 4-4 before Rafter drew away again to win 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5. Rusedski was disappointed that his tennis was not up to the standard that it had reached in earlier rounds.

Rusedski was fortunate not to have faced a seed until the final, although his victories over Richard Krajcek and Jonas Bjorkman were against higher-ranked players. The damage had been done for him. In Rusedski's half of the draw, Goran Ivanisevic, the No 4 seed, was beaten by Petr Korda, the No 15 seed, who, through illness, was unable to complete his quarter-final against Bjorkman.

"Everything in my game can get better, even my serve,"

Rusedski said, echoing the view of Brian Teacher, his coach. "I am sure this will not be my first and last grand-slam final. My next goal is to get into the top ten." That quest begins at the Samsung Open, in Bournemouth, tomorrow.

It is to Rusedski's credit that he should keep his commitment to Bournemouth. Physically, he has had two hard weeks and his throat was still troubling him yesterday. "It is very important to support your home tournaments," he said. It may not be the city that never sleeps, but it is not so dull. One man, having won a recent competition prize to holiday anywhere in the world, selected Bournemouth. Rusedski arrives on a dream ticket as well.

Bournemouth waits, page 45

Captaincy in safe keeping with Seaman

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a comforting sort of symbolism about a good goalkeeper, something that signifies safety, bravery, nobility and a measure of comfort in time of trouble. Yesterday, at Bisham Abbey, David Seaman was made the England captain for the game against Moldova tomorrow night and immediately everyone's instinct was that he was the right man for the job.

It will be a difficult position to fill on a night choked with emotion, a job that will be about dignity and bearing and gravity and composure as much as the traditional leader's virtues of bawling and screaming and striving to motivate the rest of the team. But, even at his captain's press conference yesterday, Seaman showed that it would be in safe hands.

This much was clear at once: he has the feeling for an

occasion that will be about trying to lift the nation in some small way from the depths of its mourning, as well as trying to ensure that England overcome the also-rans of their World Cup qualifying group and press on towards their showdown with Italy in Rome next month.

He did not try to hide his delight because of the poignancy of the circumstances. Instead, the man who became a national hero during the European championship last summer and who has been cheered at grounds around the country since, said that it would be an even greater honour that what is likely to be his only appearance as his country's captain should come on a night that will be charged with emotion, a night that will be forever linked to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

If hard facts are the only reference point, then Seaman will be England captain tomorrow purely because of injuries to Alan Shearer, Tony Adams and Teddy Sheringham and the suspension of Paul Ince.

The more he talked yesterday, though, the more it seemed that his own circumstances and sensitivities had pushed him forward, the right man at the right time.

"I lost my future mother-in-law three weeks ago," Seaman said, "so it had been a difficult month anyway for my fiancée and I and things were just getting better. It had already made me realise just how deeply you can be affected by that sort of loss and the last few days have been very sombre."

"It is hard to find a way to show your respect but I went down to Harrods to sign the book of condolence there and I went to Kensington Palace. I was just glad to have a chance to go there, to see what it means to everybody and to share in that."

"Against that backdrop, Wednesday is going to be very hard for all of us but I do not want to use it as an excuse and we can't. We have got a serious job to do. The worst time is going to be leading up to the kick-off. Hopefully, after that we can get the atmosphere back to something more akin to Euro 96."

Seaman has gone through the gamut of emotions at Wembley over the years, saving England in the penalty shoot-out against Spain last summer, failing to save them against Germany, even standing out on the pitch in the rain at a Rod Stewart concert. Tomorrow night, though, will be a new experience even for him.

"I know it is going to be hard for everyone until after the national anthem," Seaman said, "but then we just have to be professional. As far as being captain goes, I have never experienced it for England so I don't really know what to expect."

"Hopefully, I have got the respect of the rest of the team but as captain I need to use my experience to calm the youngsters down. I won't be playing any differently. Of course I'll be organising people but I am not a ranter and raver. Hopefully, I won't be doing much shouting anyway because the ball will be down the other end."



Seaman, who will lead England at Wembley tomorrow, in training yesterday

England hope to strike right chord

By MATT DICKINSON

THE unique responsibilities on the England football team tomorrow night were perfectly summed up yesterday when Glenn Hoddle, the coach, spent as much time discussing Wembley's pre-match choice of music — Elton John or Skinner and Baddiel — as his own choice of captain, David Seaman. What began as a World Cup qualifying match against Moldova has assumed greater importance as an occasion, and finding the correct balance between a celebration and a wake is occupying minds within the Football Association every bit as much as taking three points.

Hoddle has challenged his team to lift the country's morale and they took the first step yesterday by agreeing to make a collective contribution to the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorial fund. Each player is expected to donate the equivalent of his match fee, around £1,500.

The England coach then further raised the spirits by revealing that Seaman will captain the side. The Yorkshireman, appointed MBE after Euro 96, is respected even by opposing fans, and his calm authority is perfectly suited to an occasion when impeccable behaviour will come a close second to the priority of victory.

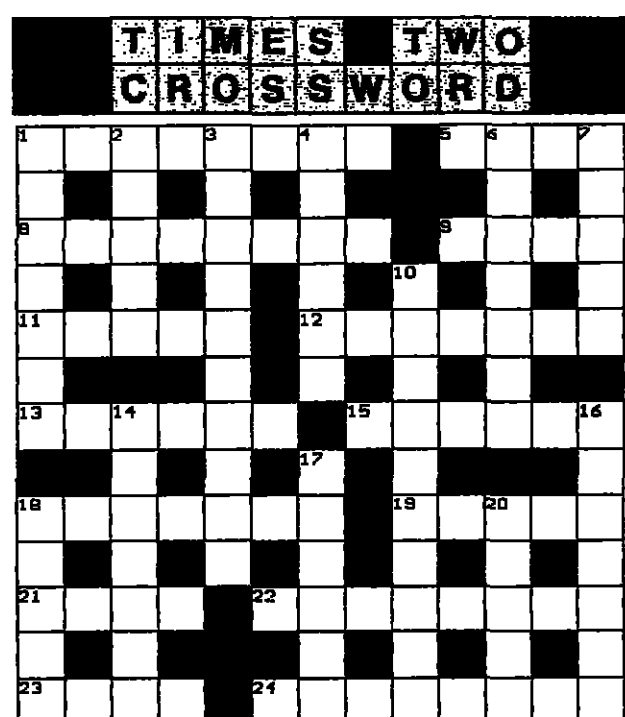
"Once Teddy Sheringham

dropped out with injury, David went straight into my thoughts," Hoddle said. "He is calm and very laid-back off the pitch, but a totally different animal between the sticks, where he is very committed. With the tragedy of last week, it could be a very emotional evening. We need a strong leader to cope with that, and I am 100 per cent sure David can."

The players will wear black ribbons pinned over their hearts and observe a minute's silence after the national anthems. David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, confirmed yesterday that Elton John had been invited to perform his tribute song to the Princess, but he had to decline because of prior engagements. The England camp is still keen for the song to be played, though, while appreciating that juxtaposing it with the now familiar Wembley refrain of *Three Lions* may offend some sensibilities.

Hoddle said: "Many people had to go back to work on Monday morning after the events of last week and we have to get back to work on Wednesday night. We are all aware of the tragedy, but this is business to be done and, for 90 minutes, we must think like that."

ITF details, pages 22-23
Scots break away, page 45



No 1194

- ACROSS
- 1 Standing for another idea (8)
 - 5 Sharpen (4)
 - 8 Stratagem, deception (8)
 - 9 Unravel; brawl (4)
 - 11 Scottish, Australian city (5)
 - 12 Caller to prayer (Muslim) (7)
 - 13 Prize eg silverware (6)
 - 15 Angle difficult spot (6)
 - 18 Underhand (7)
 - 19 Dodges dearie (colloq.) (5)
 - 21 Midday (4)
 - 22 Pro. boxer (8)
 - 23 Baby's biscuit (4)
 - 24 Driver's self-control (4,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Not budge (4,3)
 - 2 Consumption-measuring device (5)
 - 3 No longer in tricky position (3,3,4)
 - 4 Earnings (6)
 - 6 Limit of sight (7)
 - 7 Test (clothes) (3,2); attempt to deceive (3-2)
 - 10 (Romans') renewed energy (6,4)
 - 14 Manifest (7)
 - 16 Badge as prize (7)
 - 17 Insincere, false (6)
 - 18 Generous giver (5)
 - 20 A country; ware (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1193

ACROSS: 1 Drink deep 6 Cup 8 Madison 9 Tenor 10 Gift 11 As it were 13 Spoils 14 Potter 17 Spiteful 18 Tail 20 Edith 21 Fragile 22 Pun 23 Petulance

DOWN: 1 Damages 2 Indisposition 3 Kiss 4 Ernest 5 Petition 6 Concentration 7 Purse 12 Blue chip 15 Relieve 16 Tuffet 17 Steep 19 Call

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